

# SPOTLIGHT ON ESSEX COUNTY

Summer 2010



## Images of Spring

Shooters Photography Club  
Takes the Spotlight Challenge

## On the Hook

Fishing the Walleye Capital of Canada

## War of 1812

Battleground Essex County

**New features:** Coffee With Arnie McCallum • Natural Treasures of Essex County



# SPOTLIGHT ON ESSEX COUNTY

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*A taste worth discovering*

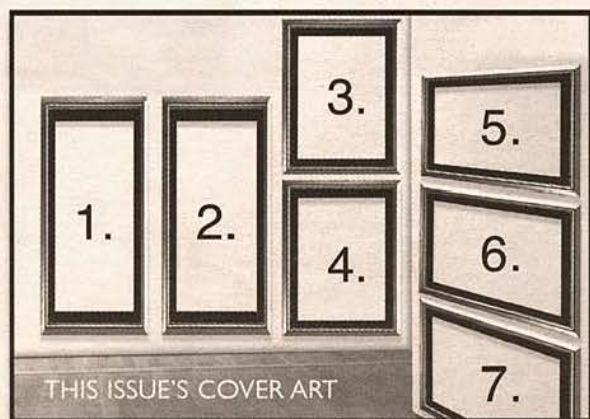
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## Editor's Note

Summertime.... it's that glorious time of year when the sun shines a bit brighter, you breathe a bit deeper, and you relax a whole lot more. It's about watermelons and tomatoes and peaches. Hot corn-on-the-cob dripping with butter. Picnics and barbecues and impromptu get-togethers. Festivals and fairs that fill our weekends and reconnect us with our communities. Fishing, camping, traveling somewhere... anywhere!

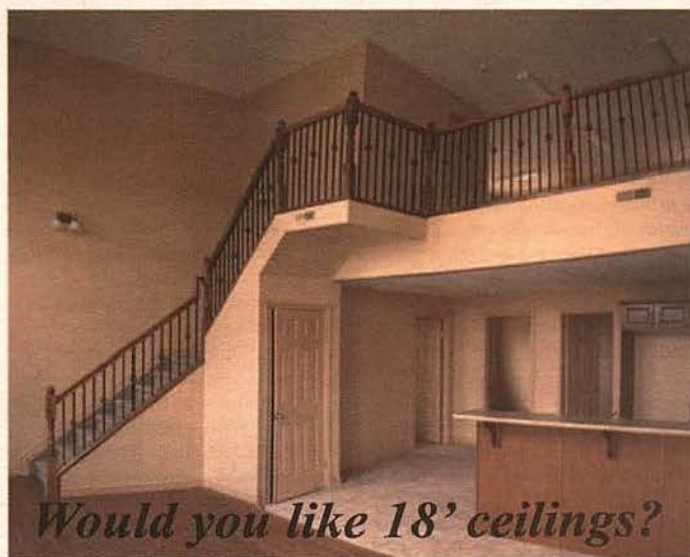
Whether you're curled up in a hammock reading a good book or sailing across Lake Erie in search of "the one that got away," chances are you're planning to be in vacation-exploration mode some time soon.

We hope that this summer edition of *Spotlight on Essex County* will inspire you to discover some of our local treasures. There are so many to choose from!

*Laurie Brett*

Publisher & Editor

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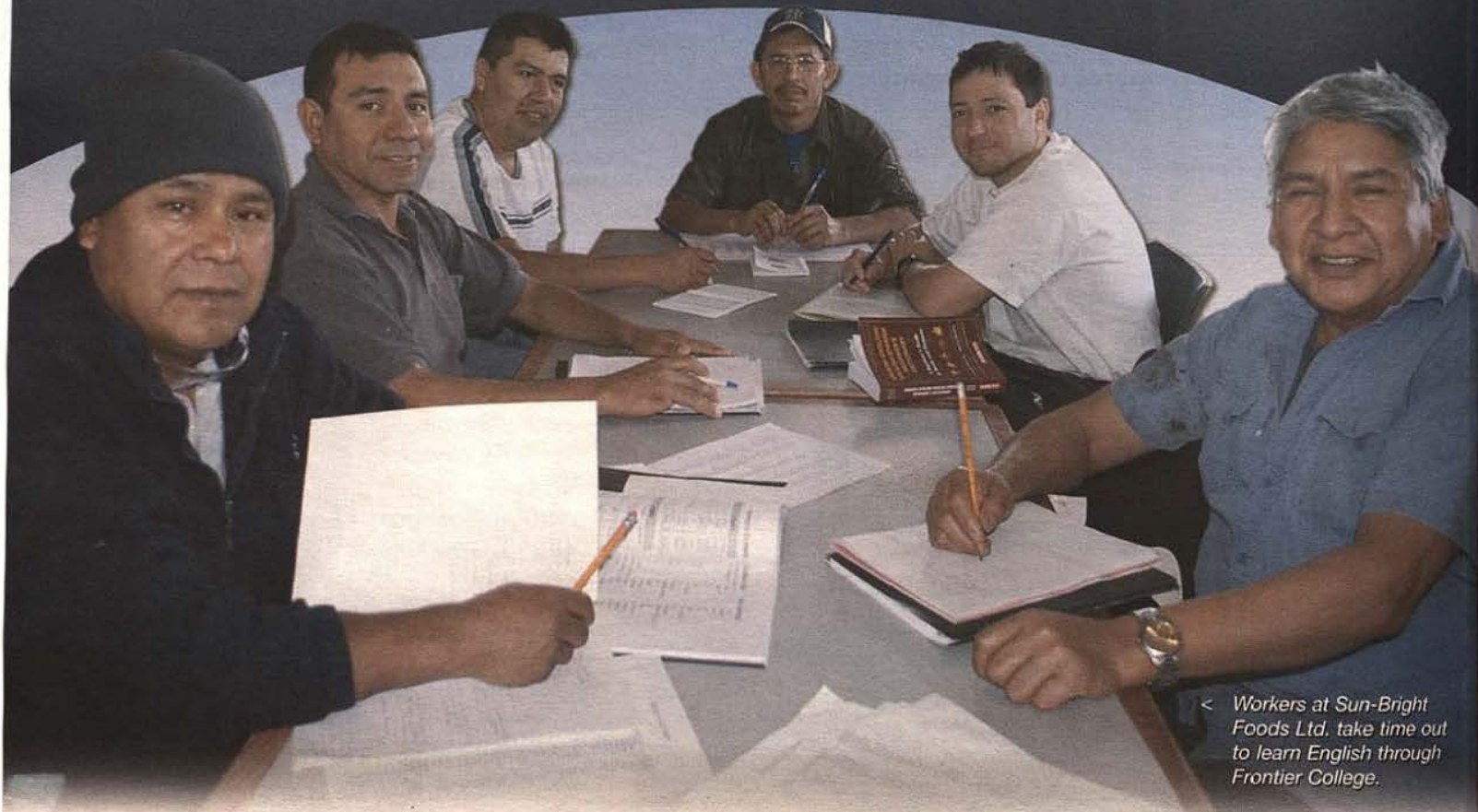


Our model home at 76 Cty Rd 2 (Charron Line), Belle River, will be open every Sunday from 2 to 4 pm



# Bridging the Cultural Divide

*Communication is key for migrant workers*



< Workers at Sun-Bright Foods Ltd. take time out to learn English through Frontier College.

By Jennifer Cranston

Essex County boasts one of the most diverse and thriving agricultural industries in the country. With mild weather, a long growing season and the help of greenhouses, this region is a food-producing powerhouse. Nowhere is this more evident than in Leamington. Much of the region's agricultural success is due to the dedication and hard work of migrant workers.

During the growing season as many as 7,000 migrant workers call Leamington their temporary home. They hail from Mexico, the Caribbean and South America but spend much of the year working in Essex County fields, greenhouses and canning factories.

Employers provide housing, trips into town and a friendly working environment, as well as wages.

Sun-Bright Foods Ltd. has employed migrant workers for over 30 years. They have a seven-week peak season when they employ about 1,000 migrant workers.

Sun-Bright Plant Manager Sam Lopez is proud of the reputation his company has with migrant workers. He says it is a place migrants want to work.

"We deal with the consulate and the government," he explains. "When you deal with other third-party companies, you can't be sure all the details are being

covered."

Lopez says the working environment at Sun-Bright is a warm, family-oriented one. All of the employees know Sam by name. There are a lot of bilingual employees so communication is never a problem. If employees become ill, Sun-Bright takes them to the doctor and sees to it that they get good medical care.

"The owners (the Iacobelli family) are all about people," he says. "It's a family environment. One of the most refreshing things is the owners create an environment of mutual respect, from the top right on down."

Lopez knows his company is doing right by its staff when he sees the same people coming back year after year with smiles on their faces. Often they ask Lopez to keep his eyes open for positions at Sun-Bright for their friends.

He says he does see homesickness in his employees from time to time, but because the same people return year after year they have friends here and are not isolated.

"They are hard-working, decent people," he says. "They are so appreciative of the work, they give 100 per cent."

The appreciation is mutual. Lopez says his company could not function without migrant workers.

Sun-Bright has recently welcomed a volunteer from Frontier College who comes regularly to provide English as a Second Language (ESL) classes.

Frontier College has been bringing literacy to people where they work since 1899. Taking learning to the people has been the college's mandate since its inception. At the turn of the century the college coined the phrase "labourer-teachers." These hearty educators went into the bush, the mines, and to the sites of railway construction to teach English to workers, who were often immigrants. They would work alongside their students during the day and teach in the evening.

While labourer-teachers are still needed and utilized, especially within the seasonal migrant worker communities, they are no longer at the core of the college. With a large contribution from volunteers, Frontier College now offers computer literacy courses and works within communities to help adults in the workplace, school children who need extra help, homeless youth, prison inmates and newcomers to Canada. Literacy as a right is Frontier's philosophy and they continue to work to achieve literacy for all people, no matter where they are.

Steve Freeman runs the Leamington campus of Frontier College. He says the college focuses on language skills that can make the workplace easier to navigate and skills that make functioning in the community easier.

"These teachers come from all over Canada, many with international experience," explains Freeman. "Usually they are university students."



"I am super-impressed. A lot of these guys have been up working since 6 a.m., then they bike into town

It was rewarding for Houston to see the students gain confidence with simple things like

"It would be beautiful to have that sense of accept-





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ance," he says.

Ira says the Jamaican community gathers at church and has festivals from time to time. Even though he and his colleagues are here on a low-skill program, many of them are skilled and their numbers include musicians and singers. He would like to see the community have a big fiesta – a day to celebrate and socialize.

Jeffrey has been in Canada for eighteen months. When he stepped off the plane in November 2008, he complained that the air conditioning was too high. The cold is new for him. Sometimes he finds it hard to interact with locals. He says it's getting better and he's working on making a good impression.

"As a black person, if you want to make friends, you've got to first show yourself friendly," he says.

This is his first experience in agriculture. Back home he worked in an office. One of the things he likes about this experience is that he has made friends from Mexico and other countries.

Omar chose this line of work because he'd heard stories about Canada and wanted to experience it for himself. He enjoys meeting people outside his own culture. He was a disc jockey in Jamaica and would like to participate in a party like the one Ira described.

Omar says he couldn't ask for a better employer.

"My employer is, to me, a really good boss," he says.

Samuel has been coming and going since 2005. He has eight months left to go in this contract.

"I never thought I'd do this so long," he says.

The cold was difficult at first but he's getting used to it now.

"I remember the first time I saw ice outside for the first time," he says. "I thought, this is a big fridge."

The story of how Samuel came to be in this line of work is a funny one.

"Even as a child I wanted to travel. I wanted to go to England or the U.S.," he says.

He thought the form he was filling out was for hotel work in the U.S. He thought it was odd that there were more questions about farming than cleaning. Eventually he realized there had been a mix-up. He filled out both forms and decided to accept whichever offer came back first.

"Whichever worked out was the right one for me," he says.

Lionel left a wife and four-year-old son behind. He will be finished his contract in September, but says he'll come back if they ask him. He expected to get a six- or eight-month contract. It was a surprise when he was offered two years.

"When I found out that it was two years, my wife was sad and she cried," he says. "It's good to make a better life, but hard to leave my wife and baby. We talk on the phone a lot."

He says there is a job shortage in his own country and this is the best way for him to make a living. He is surprised by the locals, who seem to avoid him and his colleagues. Jamaica is a very warm and friendly place in comparison.

Not everyone who uses Frontier's English classes is a migrant worker. Ana Lidia Corona Muñoz's husband was a migrant worker here for 14 years before she and her two daughters came seven years ago. With the help of interpreter Muriel McGuire, she shared some of her experiences.

Muñoz and her daughters lived in the north of Mexico where drug trafficking made life very dangerous. They came to Canada as refugees.

"Drug trafficking is a real threat to personal security in Mexico," she says.

Her daughters are now 10 and 18 and she knows she made the right decision for them.

"I like the schools here and there is less violence and more security," she explains.

She likes the fact that everything is clean and the town is calm. Both her daughters are bilingual and the older one is studying accounting at St. Clair College.

"Canadian people are good people," she said. "It's freer here. There are more liberties. In Mexico families are very close. Children are not allowed to go anywhere alone."

This cultural difference posed a few problems at first when it came to raising her daughters. But she soon found ways around the differences. The first time one of her daughters wanted to sleep at a friend's house, she invited the friend to stay at her home instead.

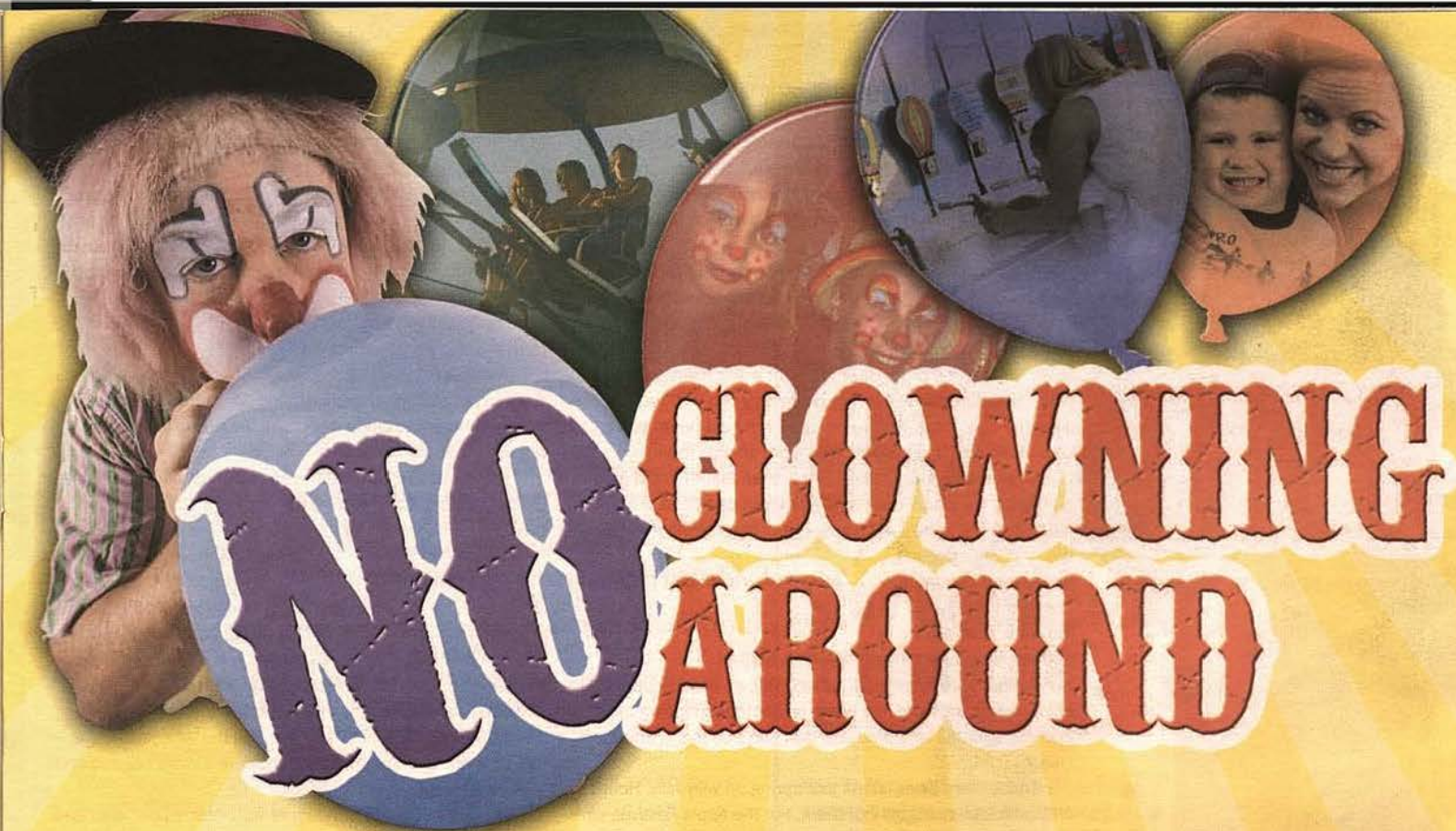
"It's about finding balance," she said.

She says Canadians are very hospitable and she enjoys the many benefits of living here.

"When immigration said it was okay to come, they paid for me to go to the doctor and for my children to go to school. It's good."

Whether migrant workers are a part of our daily lives or not, they have a huge impact on our agricultural industry, our communities and the diversity of culture we enjoy in Essex County. They leave home and family for long periods of time to earn a living not available in their home countries and they help to keep our agricultural industry competitive and viable. It can be a lonely experience. So the next time you pass a migrant worker in your community, remember that a simple smile and possibly a "good morning" is one of the kindest things you can do.





By Jennifer Cranston

Essex County is home to an abundance of events, fairs and festivals. In fact, we hold bragging rights, claiming several of the best festivals in the province. Our festivals and events take place year-round, but many of them are held in the warmer summer months. This season, fairs, festivals and events for every member of the family will fill the calendar. Most people have a favourite event or two, but if you had a mind to, you could attend a different festival – sometimes two or more – every weekend throughout the summer.

Festival season in Essex County is not just about showcasing the fruits of our agricultural prowess through events like the Tecumseh Corn Festival (Aug. 26-29) or the LaSalle Strawberry Festival (June 4-6). Indeed, the Harrow Fair (Sept. 2-5) and the Comber Fair (Aug. 6-8) may be two of the oldest fairs in Ontario – the first founded 156 years ago and the other celebrating 151 years – but around here there is so much more to celebrate.

In Windsor and Essex County, well over 60 festivals and events cater to every possible interest. If you are interested in food after it hits the table, check out Eat Your City (Aug. 1-7), or sample cuisine from around the world during Carrousel of the Nations (June 11-13, 18-20, 25-27). Is wine your thing? In the Lake Erie North Shore wine region, individual wineries host regular public events and the majority of them participate in the Shores of Erie International Wine Festival (Sept. 9-12).

If you're looking for cultural events, you don't have to look far. Art shows take place indoors and outside in every season – Art in the Park (June 4-6), Arts at the Marina (July 3-4), and Art by the River (Aug. 28-29). Even birders and history buffs can find events, like the Hawk Festival at Holiday Beach

Conservation Area (Sept. 11-12, 18-19), the War of 1812 Encampment at the Maidstone Bicentennial Museum (May 29-30), and the Amherstburg Heritage Homecoming (Aug. 6-8), which celebrates the town's legacy as the final destination of travelers on the Underground Railroad.

If parades are your thing this region has more than you can shake a candy bag at. From Santa Claus to Canada Day, there is a parade for you.

In fact, this region is so good at putting on festivals and events that six festivals from Windsor-Essex made the Festivals and Events Ontario Top 100 list this year.

The Essex Fun Fest (July 8-11), the Tecumseh Corn Fest, the Shores of Erie International Wine Festival, the Ruthven Apple Festival (Sept. 25-26), Carrousel of the Nations and Windsor International Film Festival (Nov. 4-7) all received top honours this year.

What might surprise you is the amount of work, planning and volunteer hours that go into the events we look forward to each year. Even though many of our fairs are only three- or four-day events, preparations go on all year long for many of them.

"Planning for each festival starts the day the last one shuts down," says Morley Bowman, chairperson for both the Essex Fun Fest and the Canada South Festival Network.

Bowman says that, after each festival, organizers discuss what worked and what didn't, and begin looking for ways to make improvements.

Jim Proctor has been a board member and a volunteer with the Essex Fun Fest for about 15 years. He says that, as volunteers and organizers are working the festival, they are always taking mental notes on where improvements can be made.

"Even though it's only a four-day event, it's months of planning," he says. "It starts the week after

(each year's festival ends)."

The first year Proctor volunteered at the Fun Fest beer tent, he had an idea for improving operations in that part of the festival. He suggested that a grid be applied to the tent so that if a problem arose, police and staff would know exactly where the problem was and respond immediately.

Kerri Rice is with parks and recreation in the Town of Tecumseh. She is the only paid staffer working on the Corn Fest. Like Essex, the Tecumseh organizers hold a wrap-up meeting at the end of each festival to begin making plans for the next.

"I feel like as soon as we're done with Corn Fest, we're already going on to the next," she says.

The Ruthven Apple Fest is geared to families, so organizers are always looking for new ways to entertain children. This year there will be a tent dedicated exclusively to children's activities. Katherine Gunning, Deputy Mayor of Kingsville and Apple Festival volunteer, says that while a daycare provider is running the tent, it is not the same as daycare.

"It's not babysitting," she explains. "It's fun things for kids to do; parents are expected to stick around."

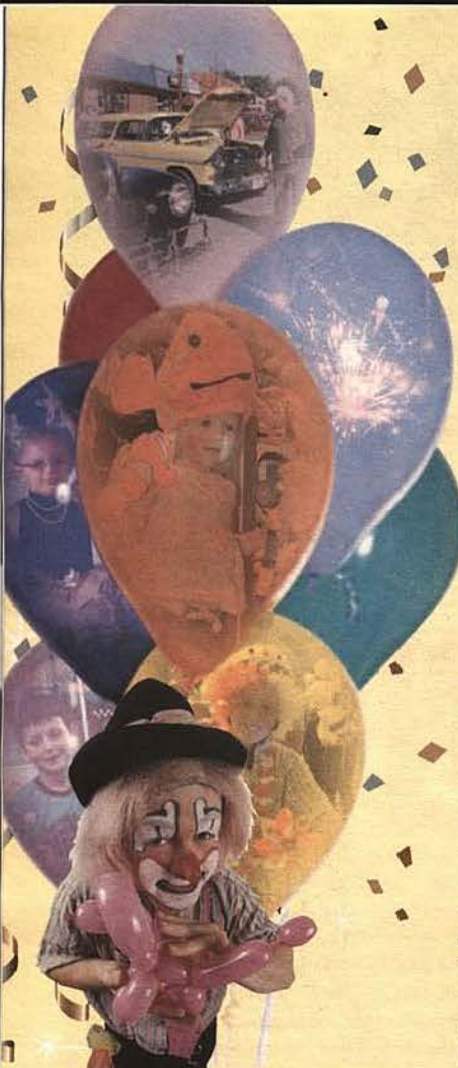
Changes and improvements are made every year to improve the Apple Festival Parade.

"We're always looking to add, grow and improve," says Gunning.

Jackie Barroco is chair of the vending committee for the Apple Festival. After each festival she asks vendors to give her one positive and one negative comment about their experience so she can make every possible improvement before the next festival.

Festivals, especially the older ones, were once run by the community, with different families taking responsibility for different aspects, one generation to the next. Without the benefit of continuity, today's festival organizers insist on having things written down with full descriptions of every small detail.





"The first year that I started, nothing was written down," says Tecumseh's Rice.

For the last two years she has spent a lot of time talking to the people "who have always done it." She asks them to write down everything that they do, to help her create an organized manual. This is a form of succession planning that many festivals have adopted.

The Apple Festival refers to and constantly updates the "red book." It has a list of things to be done, a schedule detailing when they need to be done and a description of how to get them done.

There is little or no down time for many festival volunteers. Regular meetings often begin only two or three months after the end of the last event. The Corn Fest board has a core of about 20 volunteers that work all year round.

In a multiple-day festival, like a town fair, the core group of volunteers, which can range from four people to 20 or more, can put in over 40 hours in meetings alone throughout the year. That doesn't include the hundreds of hours that go into the work itself or the 18-hour days over the course of the festival.

Vendors are a large part of any fair, as most people enjoy wandering from one booth to another shopping for interesting crafts and products that can't be found anywhere else.

Those "tent cities" don't just spring up willy-nilly. Hours of meticulous planning go into them. For the Apple Festival, vendors must apply for space. Barroco says she sends out applications in March and April, even though the festival doesn't take place until late September. It is a large event, with about 125 vendors last year. The vendor section of the grounds needs to be designed, laid out and serviced. Vendors need to be screened for appropriate merchandise. Barroco must ensure there isn't an over-saturation of competing vendors and that those that do offer similar merchandise are not placed next to each other. She even goes so far as to create the perfect experience for shoppers and vendors alike ensuring, for example, that a candle merchant is placed so as to avoid direct sunlight.

Barroco is not the only member of the Apple Festival who is paying very close attention to detail. Katherine and Wayne Gunning have been working on the planning team for about 18 years. One of Wayne's jobs is to post signs throughout the community with the help of volunteers. He takes great pride in the fact that those signs are taken down almost immediately following the festival.

The Apple Festival is called a "safe watch" festival because of the meticulous attention given to safety planning. Security personnel and OPP are on site for the duration of the festival and organizers meet regularly with them before

the festival to devise an effective plan for every contingency, even tornadoes, thunderstorms, electrical outages and fire. Police even monitor the parking lots to make sure that no kids or dogs are left in vehicles.

Barroco explains that the location, Colasanti's Tropical Gardens, is very open with several points of entry. This could be a real challenge in the case of a missing child. Fortunately the organizers thought of that before a child wandered off. When the child was reported missing, volunteers were in position to seal off the park and the child was located in less than five minutes.

The Apple Festival has volunteers on golf carts who offer rides to people with disabilities and the elderly. They also have volunteers to clean and stock the port-a-johns on a regular schedule.

Proctor has run the beer tent and entertainment at the Essex Fun Fest for several years. Until this year, he would bring home 80 volunteer t-shirts every night during the festival to launder them and have them ready for the next day.

*"Festival and event planning is no clowning around."*

*— Jim Proctor*

"This year I had a lady offer to do that," he says.

The minutiae that needs attention is endless with every festival, and none of it could be done without the tireless dedication of volunteers. Volunteers are the engine that makes the machine run. They are also the wheels and the gas tank and the transmission. They are always needed and there are rarely enough of them.

Literally hundreds of hours of volunteer labour are needed to pull off a successful festival and there is work for everyone. The work done by high school students can be put towards their required community service hours. Day and night shifts are available, as well as work for every level of ability, from sitting at the gates to working security to garbage detail.

Proctor is the volunteer coordinator for the Essex Fun Fest and manages about 475 people on the weekend of the event. Getting the help he needs is always a challenge. He encourages everyone who volunteered last year to bring a friend this year. He says that most of his volunteers enjoy the opportunity to reconnect with people in the community.

"If you don't volunteer, you're missing a great opportunity to make friends," says Katherine Gunning.

She reminds people that volunteering is great fun and brings lots of fringe benefits, like making connections in other organizations and reconnecting with old friends. She wants anyone thinking of volunteering at a festival to remember that it is called "volunteer work" because it is work. The worst thing someone can do is to commit to putting in time and then back out at the last minute.

"We need volunteers from one hour to 200 hours," says Rice. "We welcome all volunteers."

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Another vital part of any fair is the involvement of community organizations and businesses. Firefighters in Comber stand on guard, fire hoses in hand, and supervise the demolition derby at the Comber Fair. The Essex Fire Association is donating their time to provide first aid and half the cost of the Sunday night fireworks display. The Essex Optimists run and staff the beer tent at the Fun Fest and the Optimists of St. Clair Beach operate the corn booth at the Corn Fest. Colasanti's donates their grounds for the Apple Festival. Church groups, athletic organizations and countless other not-for-profits team up to bring most fairs and festivals together.

Corporate sponsorship is also essential to most fairs. Currently the Fun Fest is looking for a local business to donate \$1,000 towards the annual lawn mower races. Without it they may not happen this year. Businesses donate cash for sound systems, stage rentals, events and contests. Many of our favourite parts of any festival come to us through the generosity of local businesses. Bonduelle Inc., for example, donates all the corn sold at the Corn Fest.

The beer tent at the Essex Fun Fest used to be the main source of revenue, but with new laws fostering more temperate drinking practices, it's time for many festivals to shift their focus to other sources of revenue. Changes are being made at many festivals to look at admission fees to the park and the entertainment. Government grants, both federal and provincial, have become a major source of operating capital for many festivals.

Some of our best festivals and events are always struggling for cash. "Even though the Essex Fun Fest has been in the top 50 for five years and the top 100 for the last three years, we've lost money for the third year in a row," says Proctor.

There are resources for festival and event planners to develop new ideas and find ways to draw bigger crowds. These organizations are also very helpful in sharing resources and providing help with grant applications. As chair of the Canada South Festival Network, Bowman says it is a great resource for all local festivals and events. They even host "lunch and learn" events where organizers can go to learn the latest in event planning.

"Festivals have changed over the last few years and if you don't change with it you have problems," he explains.

The Canada South Festival Network offers event planners the opportunity to network, brainstorm and stay current with trends and market changes.

Another useful resource for event planners is Festivals and Events Ontario. Not only do they hand out awards and recognize successful events at their annual conference, but they also offer training seminars.

Bowman explains that part of the key to success when applying for funding is the ability to demonstrate the economic impact that a festival will have on your community.

"That study can cost tens of thousands of dollars," he says. "With FEO it can be done for a few thousand (dollars)."

Bowman says that his favourite part of any event or festival is finding the "wow" factor.

If something is to be done well, it needs to be approached with passion and dedication. The volunteers who work tirelessly to bring us our festivals and events fit that bill.

"It's always been a passion," says Proctor.

"I thrive in pressure situations, knowing that I'm doing my part to make our community just that - a community. I have a part in the kids' smiles. That's what keeps me going."



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< A postcard shows the Magnet during its service for the Royal Mail Line. (Postcard courtesy of Walter Lewis)

# The Magnet's Long Journey to Amherstburg

By Art Rhyno

When the water is low along Front Road, near Texas Road on the way to Amherstburg, the remains of a once busy steamer peer out on a world that has passed it by. The vessel started out its career on the Great Lakes as the Magnet, launching to great fanfare from a dock near Niagara Falls on July 2, 1847. The name was appropriate for a ship that was one of the first to boast an iron hull, at the time a still unproven alternative to the wooden hulls that had been the backbone of shipping for centuries.

"Some have seen the nineteenth-century as the Iron Age," notes Walter Lewis, a Great Lakes historian and author. "Certainly most who worked with steam depended on iron boilers, iron cylinders, iron pistons, iron linking mechanisms."

Lewis is the co-author of *The River Palace: The Many Lives of the Kingston*. The

book describes the remarkable story of another iron steamboat that would host a future king before finding a resting place in a ship graveyard near the city that shares its name.

"By the 1840s, the age of the iron hull was set to begin," says Lewis. "Iron hulls would prove that they could be bigger, stronger and yet lighter than their wooden counterparts. They cost more to build, and yet time would come to prove that they could last substantially longer, generations longer, in fact."

An iron hulled ship was much more expensive to construct than a wooden one at the time of the Magnet's launch, but the appeal of such sturdy building material had a lot to do with hints of war that were coming across the water from the United States.

In the late 1840s, a number of incidents raised British concerns about the possibility of conflict with the Americans. Diplomatic crises over the Oregon boundary and the current slogan in the American presidential campaign, "Fifty-four or fight!", had increased tensions along the border. The War of 1812 had been a lesson to the British that the key to the defence of Canada was the Great Lakes and the Upper St. Lawrence. With a subsequent agreement between the two powers limiting the number and size of armed vessels on the Great Lakes, the British were interested in civilian vessels that could be used for military service in the case of hostilities.

The builders of the Magnet were able to secure an investment from the British in return for a promise that the vessel would be made available to the

navy, unconditionally, in the event of conflict. The Magnet started its career on a peaceful note, however, running from the Welland Canal across Lake Ontario, and then into the St. Lawrence.

The Magnet's trips were not without danger. It was briefly grounded in its first year after striking a rock in an entrance to a canal and, in 1849, narrowly avoided harm to its 50 passengers who had to be ferried to shore after another rock incident in Port Darlington, near Bowmanville.

Rocks were not the only hazard of the time. The shipping lanes of the Great Lakes were crowded with vessels of all sizes and types sailing day



Today, the remains of the Magnet are submerged in a channel near Amherstburg. A close view reveals where bolts once held the vessel together. >





and night, in good weather and foul. The Magnet would suffer a midnight collision with the competing Maple Leaf in 1851, but was soon back to work after repairs.

"From spring thaw to winter freeze-up, in the era before the railways were completed, vessels like the Magnet operated to a strict schedule despite the weather," says Lewis. "She was part of the Royal Mail Line on Lake Ontario, delivering the mails from Hamilton to Kingston, and for a brief time on to Montreal. Immigrants were transported up the St. Lawrence and the Great Lakes to settle in the region. Anything that couldn't be made in the province was transported in by ship, from tea to madeira and port, to a thousand different manufactured goods. If it could be shipped in a box, barrel, crate or trunk it might find its way into the hull of the Magnet."

The Magnet ferried both goods and people on the Great Lakes, but would eventually become a passenger vessel and go through a number of different owners until 1866. In that year, the British Admiralty followed through on using civilian vessels for security purposes in response to armed Fenians crossing the Niagara frontier. The Fenians were Irish republicans who made armed raids into Canada with the goal of pressuring Britain to withdraw from Ireland. The Magnet briefly became a gunboat in response to the Fenian threat and exchanged civilian passengers for a company of the Royal Marines.

But civilian activities would be the vessel's most lasting legacy, a long career that would include 10 seasons on the Owen Sound-Lake Superior trade route after its short military engagement.

By 1894, the Magnet had returned to the lower lakes, and would see its most drastic transformation as a result of serious damage while navigating the Coteau Rapids. Repairs included converting the engine from wood to coal for fuel, and the Magnet was given a new name, the Hamilton. By 1910, the engine was removed from the vessel and it was turned into a barge.

The Magnet would never see the passenger trade again and its last days were spent in the service of Lewis Goodchild's coal business in Amherstburg. As a barge, Magnet was regularly used to carry oil from the Wallaceburg area down to Detroit, her once celebrated iron hull becoming, essentially, a tank. Around the early 1930s, Goodchild would sink the vessel in order to use it as a dock, and the Magnet would find its final resting place close to the shore of the lake system that it had traveled and knew so well.

# The British Whig

November 24, 1847

We mentioned some time ago in noticing the completion of the Lachine Canal that steamers of the largest size were expected to make use of the locks this season. We have great pleasure in announcing that that expectation has been fulfilled. On Monday night the steamer Magnet arrived at the canal basin, which she left again yesterday at 12 o'clock, on the voyage direct to Hamilton - The vessel is ideal, which gave rise to a discussion last session on the conduct of the Imperial Government, which had advanced Captain Sutherland a large sum for the purpose of building her, on condition of certain contingent services to be rendered in case they were required. The proprietors of the old steamboats applied to the Provincial Parliament to remonstrate with the Government for what it had done, and to claim from it a similar favour for every boat on Lake Ontario; and they were laughed at for their pains. The Magnet is an iron vessel of about 60 tons burden

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KINGSTON, Sept. 24, 1847.

Advertisement found in the Kingston Gazette in 1847.

and 90 horsepower. She is 181 feet long and 45-1/2 feet broad, with a considerable depth of hold. She has an upper or promenade deck from stern to stern, below which is the ladies' cabin. The gentlemen's cabin is filled up with thirty-four sleeping berths, and the whole of the apartments, though remarkable for plainness, seem to be particularly good. She draws about 5 feet water when light and 9 feet loaded. The Magnet is expected to make the passage from Lachine to Hamilton in thirty-six hours... His Excellency the Governor General inspected the Magnet yesterday, and, we understand, expressed himself very much pleased with her arrangements. - Montreal Herald

This newspaper announcement comes from a library project called OurOntario.ca, for which Walter Lewis performs the role of information architect for collections of newspapers, shipping materials, and many other kinds of content.

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# FROM BASEMENT TO STAGE

Young musicians  
step into the  
spotlight

By Jennifer Cranston

**M**usic is one of humankind's greatest forms of expression. It can convey deep emotion, political outrage, or the simple joy of being silly. It is a multidimensional art form that touches all walks of life from infants to the aged.

For true music lovers, it can reach the deepest places of our hearts and minds.

Musicians have inspired us to approach that special someone we have a crush on, to feed starving people halfway around the world, and to carry on when our disappointments overwhelm us. They make us cry, laugh, dance and pray.

Musicians work for years perfecting their art, learning to collaborate with each other and developing the ability to draw listeners into the moment through performance.

They come together wherever space (and sound) allows, form bands, and write lyrics and melodies. All this work is no guarantee that the music will be heard.

When the work has paid off and the art is ready to be appreciated, how does a band get out of the garage or the basement and onto a stage? How do they share their carefully crafted product with the consumer?

## SINNASTARR

David Silveira of Sinnastarr Entertainment has helped dozens of local bands make the transition from basement to stage.

Sinnastarr is a concert promoter and an entertainment-booking agency that works with venues like the Blind Dog concert hall, the Coach and Horses, and the Phog Lounge in Windsor. Silveira and his partner, Jason Soulliere, work with big national and international bands and with up-and-coming local bands.

Silveira was born in Leamington and spent several years as a booking agent in Toronto before coming back to the region to start Sinnastarr. Soulliere was raised in Lakeshore and studied marketing at St. Clair College before attending university in Florida where he is working on a bachelor of science-music business degree.

When they arrange for a big-name band to add Windsor to their touring schedule, Sinnastarr is expected to find the opening acts. This part of their job is so important to them that, when dealing with agents, Silveira and Soulliere make sure there is room in the show for local talent.

^  
Silent Movie Type  
performs.



"Sometimes we do shows where it's all new bands and see how fans react to them," says Silveira.

Through Sinnastarr, Silveira has made it a priority to grow local talent. He is genuinely interested in seeing the musicians he works with succeed, and he does what he can to push them in the right direction.

"I've intentionally created a bit of a training ground for young bands," he says.

Silveira says that professionalism off the stage is as important as musicianship on the stage. He insists that all the bands he works with exhibit a professional attitude with other musicians, the venue, the fans and the promoter. He admits to pushing young musicians to develop these skills, and has even created stressful situations to gauge their reactions.

Local bands aren't the only ones who occasionally get advice or a lecture from Silveira. He won't hesitate to remind a famous headliner to thank the opening band and treat them with respect.

For bands that are just getting started and looking for a pathway to the stage, Silveira offers some basic advice.

"I'm a big believer in direct marketing," he says. "Here's my big secret – get out there and talk to people. Period."

He also recommends using Internet sites like MySpace. Many of the bands he puts in his shows contact him through the Sinnastarr MySpace page. He also does a lot of "head-hunting" through MySpace. While social networking sites like Facebook seem to have eclipsed MySpace for general use, MySpace is still a valuable tool for musicians, explains Silveira.

"Bands need a good MySpace (page)," he says.

MySpace also allows bands to showcase audio and video samples of their music and performances. It doesn't have to be flashy if it's effective and easy to navigate, Silveira says.

Correct word choice is also important. When a new band is explaining their background on their page, they shouldn't say "We jam in my buddy's basement." Silveira suggests using "We're a brand new band."

Performance and a genuine relationship with fans are very important once a band finds a stage. Silveira explains that when people come to see a show, they're looking for a great performance. They don't generally notice or care if there are minor mistakes in the song.

Assassinate the Following... (ellipsis included) is one local band that Silveira has enjoyed watching become a contender in the music industry.

"I started bringing them out to play at the Kingsville Arena," he says. "Then I put them (on stage) with every national touring band I could."

Assassinate The Following... has toured with Protest the Hero. They've signed with a record label and have a nationwide distribution deal.

"They're well on their way now," he says. "I found them on MySpace. All I did was give them a platform and an honest opinion."

Not every young musician who gets stage time will make a career of music, but for those who have that goal in mind, it takes more than talent.

"Being a professional musician is tough," says Silveira. "It takes the right attitude, the right sound and the right personality."

## BEIJING BIKE CLUB

Another band Sinnastarr has worked with is Beijing Bike Club.

"It's a great band," he says. "Huge potential."

Beijing Bike Club is made up of David Zelko (vocals and rhythm guitar), Brendan Rhyno (drums), Derrick VanMackelberg (lead guitar), all of Essex, and Nik Suich of Belle River (bass). The band members range in age from 17 to 19 and have been playing together for about a year.

Sinnastarr is not the only avenue for local bands to find stage time. Supernova is an online community that helps to promote indie (independent) music. Beijing Bike Club has played four shows in Supernova's Break Your Band Contest. In January they advanced to the finals in London, Ont. and placed second, winning studio recording time as a prize.

Beijing Bike Club does not rely solely on what is offered to them when it comes to stage time. They contact venues on their own and work to find opportunities.

"I'm trying to find us shows all over Southwestern Ontario," says Zelko.

Finding shows can be difficult for this band because of their genre, whatever that is. They try not to settle for one type of music.

Silveira says it's common for young bands to be out of sync with whatever musical style is popular at a given time. But that's okay because music is cyclical and chances are every style will have its time of popularity.

"We agreed not to pick a genre and just let it be what it is," explains VanMackelberg.

On MySpace they are described as rock/pop punk/crunk. While they are diverse, their style can't be classified as metal or pop, which are currently popular on the local music scene.

The band members agree that for them playing music is about loving what they do. Their advice to other bands is all about the passion.

"As long as you like your music, then go ahead and do it," advises Rhyno.

"Don't pick a direction, let it pick itself," says VanMackelberg. "Follow your heart. If you don't you'll regret it."

Zelko says he discovered his comfort zone on stage.

"After the first time I performed on stage I thought, where the hell have I been?"

## BEN CLARK

Gospel/pop artist Ben Clark of Harrow agrees that motivation is key in the music business.

"If you're doing it for money and girls or whatever, you're going to wear out and it will lead to failure," he says. "You have to be passionate about your music, have goals and purpose."

When he was about 13 years old, Clark was playing in coffee houses, school events and festivals. Back then he categorized his music as pop/punk.

"I grew in my faith and changed genres," he explains.

Clark discovered that when your music fills a niche market, it brings opportunities in other types of venues. Performances in churches, camps, festivals and conferences are the bread and butter of his stage work. He says that contests can also open doors.

Ben Clark is the name but the act is actually a duo. About two years ago he and his music partner, Bori Afolabi, began writing their first album together. Their song "Woo Hoo" won song of the year at the Canadian Gospel Music Awards in 2009.

That win automatically puts Clark in the top six in an international competition in Nashville in July. The first place title won him a distribution contract that has placed his record in stores across Canada. He has recently been named fourth in Can-Con radio play. That means that he is the fourth most played Canadian Christian artist in the country.

Professionalism is also very important to Clark. He believes it is important to remember the people who supported him when he was just starting out. He recently sat down and called every store that carries his record to thank them.

His song is currently number 33 on the Canadian Christian Music Charts.

Clark enjoys being recognized when he's out and about.

"It's kind of cool," he says. "That's the whole reason I write music is to connect to people. When someone says, 'That song really helped me or changed me,' that's where the joy comes from."

Clark is aware of the work ethic needed to succeed in a music career. He is also aware of the constant struggle to find balance. Plans to get married this summer add a little more weight to the personal side of his scale.

"It's not all fun and games," he says. "First you think it's going to be all fun, playing music and traveling."

He explains that it is often work and sacrifice, and that even in your personal time, there is always business to take care of.

Music is a very expensive industry to get into. It is important to love what you're doing for the sake of the music because in the beginning you're putting more money into it than you can get back out of it.

"Until last year we didn't even break even," Clark says.

He and Afolabi are making some money now and are ready to make music on a full-time basis.



## SILENT MOVIE TYPE

Silent Movie Type can be seen playing at various venues in Windsor and Essex County including the Phog Lounge, the Blind Dog, the Chubby Pickle and even the Red Bull Air Show 2010.

Brit Matschulat (vocals and rhythm guitar), Matt Upcott (lead guitar), Justyn Brando (vocals and bass), and Jason Jarrold (drums) make up this four-piece band that's rising fast in the local music industry.

Matschulat, Brando and Jarrold have been playing together for over a year. Upcott joined them a few months ago. Like many local bands, Silent Movie Type resists being labeled. They're described as indie-rock, alternative and post punk.

"We try not to fall into a genre," says Matschulat. "We just try to write dynamic songs."

In the basement where they practice, the walls are papered with promotional posters from each of their shows. Their first show together was at the Fogcutter in Kingsville. The headlining band contacted them and asked them to open. Many of their shows come through word of mouth, but they admit MySpace has been essential in getting their name and their work known.

Silveira contacted them through MySpace and has since booked them in several shows.

Matschulat gives Sinnastarr a lot of credit for building the local music scene.

"Dave has been instrumental in helping local bands," he says. "We owe a lot to Dave."

The group practices twice a week and more before a show. Upcott was performing with the band after only one month of practice.

Brando explains that a successful band needs a good working relationship among its members.

"A year is a good test period," he says. "It's all about the chemistry within the band."

Silent Movie Type is always writing new music to keep it "fun and fresh." The joy of performing is what keeps them coming back to the stage.

"Every time we play a show we're reminded of why we do it," says Brando.

They give their CDs away at their concerts and offer free digital downloads of their music from MySpace.

"We're not in it for the money," says Matschulat.

Giving their music away gets them local exposure but they admit that sometimes it can be hard to stand out. The market has been called "flooded" because of the ease of music production today. Artists often own their own music. With a computer and a few other pieces of equipment it's relatively easy to produce your own album.

"You're doing it because you love making music," says Brando.

"Sometimes you make enough money on shows to cover your gas. It starts as an expensive hobby."

There is a lot of respect and networking among local bands.

"Anyone who gets on stage and opens themselves to criticism – you've got to give it to them," says Matschulat. "There are a lot of musicians helping musicians."

There are some easy tips to finding the opportunity to perform. They recommend simple things like being professional and personable with fans, other musicians and venues and promoters. Sticking around for a whole show rather than leaving after you own set makes a good impression with other bands and improves networking.

Promoting your band, according to Silent Movie Type, is a job on its own. Putting together a decent recording and dropping the demo off at venues can open doors. They say it is important to find the balance between promoting your band and seeming desperate. Windsor has a number of venues and agencies that are giving new bands a shot – seek them out.

Matschulat says enjoying what you do is as important as being good at what you do.

"We don't think we're great. We're just having fun," he says.

## PSYCHEDELIC THREAT

It's never too soon to get started. Psychedelic Threat is a good example of young musicians taking that important step onto a stage. With the help of music teacher Jon Brett of Kingsville, this five-piece band of 12- to 14-year olds is already finding an audience.

Brett calls himself a manager/instructor/band coach. Under his guidance, these young teens have been together for just under a year and cover classic rock. They have even begun working on original compositions. They have played at the Kingsville Arena, Darcy's School of Dance's Christmas show, and

are planning some public performances in downtown Kingsville this summer. Brett is exceptionally proud of these youngsters.

"They've already done their first show," he says. "They were great. They were brilliant. They shone."

The focus for these fine musicians right now is performance.

"What I'm teaching them is how to perform in front of people, because that's a skill in itself," says Brett. "We talk about stage presence and interacting with the crowd, because that's what it's all about."

Daniel Miller, 13, plays guitar and has been taking music lessons for about a year. He says being on stage is exciting rather than scary. Twelve-year-old drummer Koron Shoemaker has also been taking formal lessons for about a year. He started by teaching himself out of a book. He likes performing and showing people what he can do. Alan Andreu, 13, plays guitar and drums.

"I like getting out there and playing with other people," he says.

Andreu says that other young musicians should take that leap onto a stage.

"They shouldn't be afraid or scared to share their music," he says. "Just go out there and play."

Bailey Neufeld, 14, plays guitar and bass. He enjoys performing.

"I like the challenge it gives you and the experience of showing people what you can do," he says.

Neufeld admits that it can be a little scary especially when he's playing a difficult piece. He also says there is a line to walk between the music and the performance.

"You can interact with the audience too much and screw up the music," he says.

Vocalist Jamie Pfeifer, 13, says she was a little nervous in her first performance because everyone was watching her. She says to practice a lot and put your modesty aside.

"Do as many shows as you can," she says.

Music is about the release and expression of emotion. It is a means by which to inspire, motivate and entertain. First musicians must be passionate about their songs and their music. Then they must find the venues, promoters and courage to share their songs. This region has a thriving music industry and plenty of stepping stones to stardom. With passion and persistence, the performance comes.

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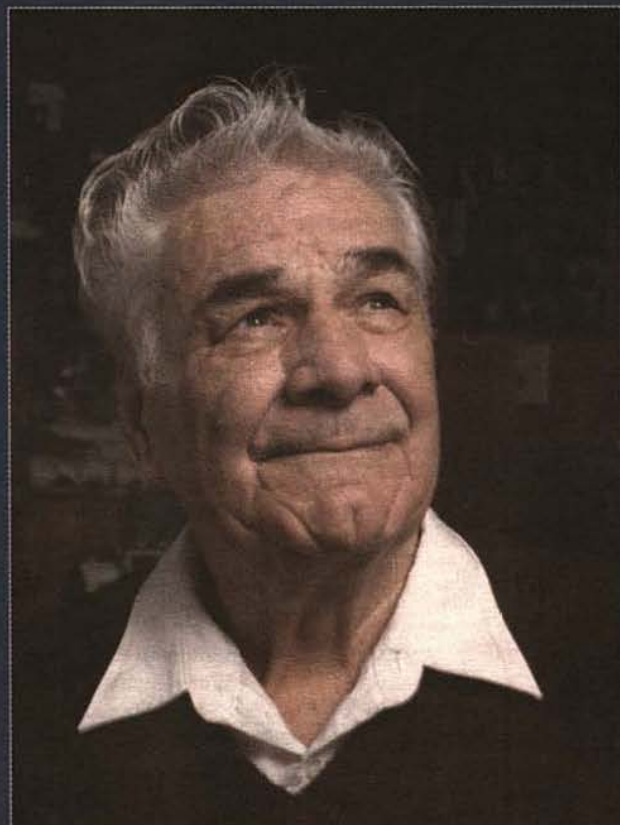
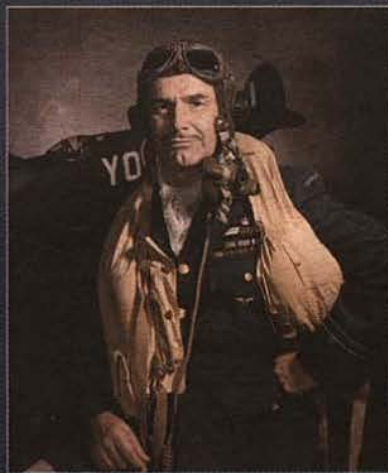


# CHEVALIER JERRY BILLING

## - A KNIGHT WITH WINGS

One of nine children, Essex native Jerry Billing grew up during the difficult years of the Great Depression. When war broke out in Europe, he joined the Royal Canadian Air Force with the desire to be a flyer. Following flight training in Canada and Britain, Billing earned his wings as a Spitfire pilot. In October 1942, he volunteered to fly in the defence of Malta and was one of only two pilots out of 24 to survive the battle. Though shot down three times, Billing returned to do battle over Europe. After an amazing career, he left the RCAF in 1964. In 1995, the French government bestowed upon Billing the title of Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Merit  – the equivalent of knighthood. He was also awarded the Malta George Cross. Chevalier Jerry Billing celebrated his 89th birthday on April 20, 2010.

*Photo essay by Andy Comber*



Top left: A painting by Salvation Army Capt. Henry Trickey depicts Jerry Billing flying a Spitfire.

Top right: Jerry Billing, Spitfire Pilot, Spike Bell Photography M. Photog., PPA. Certified, MPA.

Above: Jerry Billing's medal de l'Ordre National du Merit . The medal is a six-armed Maltese cross in silver and enamelled blue, with laurel leaves between the arms.

Left: Chevalier Jerry Billing – A Knight with Wings.



# THE POWER OF A PINHOLE

By Andy Comber

**I**t is said that medieval scholars argued over how many angels could dance on the head of a pin.

Science is unlikely to answer that question, but it has determined that a pinhole has the power to turn the world – at least the world we see – upside down and backwards.

It is all about light and images.

Chinese texts from the fifth century B.C. recorded the basic optical principles of a pinhole and its power. Through experiments, they discovered that light travels in straight lines. They also found that objects reflect light in all directions. Most importantly, they found that light reflected from the top of an object, when it passes through a hole, produces the lower part of an image. In simple terms, it turns the world we see upside down.

Over time, people learned to apply this science, harnessing the power of a pinhole for creative and recreational purposes. One of today's most popular applications is photography.

Pinhole photography has emerged as an art form – a worldwide phenomenon that has

created a limitless variety of images – all through the power of a pinhole.

That power and creativity "hooked" Kingsville photographer Anna Lamarche.

It started with a present from her husband Peter in 2003 – a pinhole photography kit, Lamarche says.

"I thought – hey, that's pretty cool."

For photography, you need a camera. Lamarche said a pinhole camera is a simple camera "with no lens, no viewfinder." The tiny pinhole acts as the aperture.

Pinhole cameras can be made from almost any light-tight container – a box, a tin, even a coffee can. They can be very small – made from a 35-mm film canister – or much larger. In 2007, a team of photography artists made the largest pinhole camera out of an abandoned aircraft hangar in California.

Imagination is a key element of pinhole photography, Lamarche says.

"You have to think outside the box – or tin can, as the case may be."

Lamarche soon discovered there was a world of interest in pinhole photography. She also discovered an international event created to promote and celebrate the art of pinhole photography.

Worldwide Pinhole Photography Day is held on the last Sunday in April each year.

For ten years, a team of photographic artists and enthusiasts have promoted the event, creating a website









# IMAGES OF *Spring*

*W*ith the idea of capturing images of spring, Spotlight on Essex County turned to the eyes of some local photographers – all members of Shooters Photography Club.

The response to this challenge was phenomenal, resulting in a large collection of amazing photographs depicting nature, flowers, wildlife, people, and more. We wish to thank all the photographers who submitted their works of art.

This issue's front cover and this photo spread is our way of sharing the photographer's eye with you.

*We hope you enjoy these "Images of Spring".*





10.



11.



12.



15.



13.



14.



16.



17.

1. *Clothes Dryer*  
Anna Lamarche  
Kingsville

2. *Puddles*  
Don Learn  
Windsor

3. *Trillium*  
Ann Cotter  
Kingsville

4. *Jack in the Pulpit*  
Mike Ethier  
Amherstburg

5. *Trillium Blossom*  
Mike Ethier  
Amherstburg

6. *Wizard in a Pulpit*  
Dorothea Hooper  
Windsor

7. *Spring blooms*  
Lynne Morand  
Tecumseh

8. *Sprouting*  
Yolanda Asschert  
Kingsville

9. *New leaf*  
Yolanda Asschert  
Kingsville

10. *Lilacs*  
Mary Milec  
Kingsville

11. *Lily of the Valley*  
Mary Milec  
Kingsville

12. *Finch feeding*  
Gavin Barnett  
Kingsville

13. *Dandelion*  
Lena Neufeld  
Leamington

14. *Connections*  
Susan Byrne  
Kingsville

15. *Blossoms*  
Gavin Barnett  
Kingsville

16. *Frog*  
Susan Byrne  
Kingsville

17. *Dandelion*  
Richard Danckaert  
Kingsville





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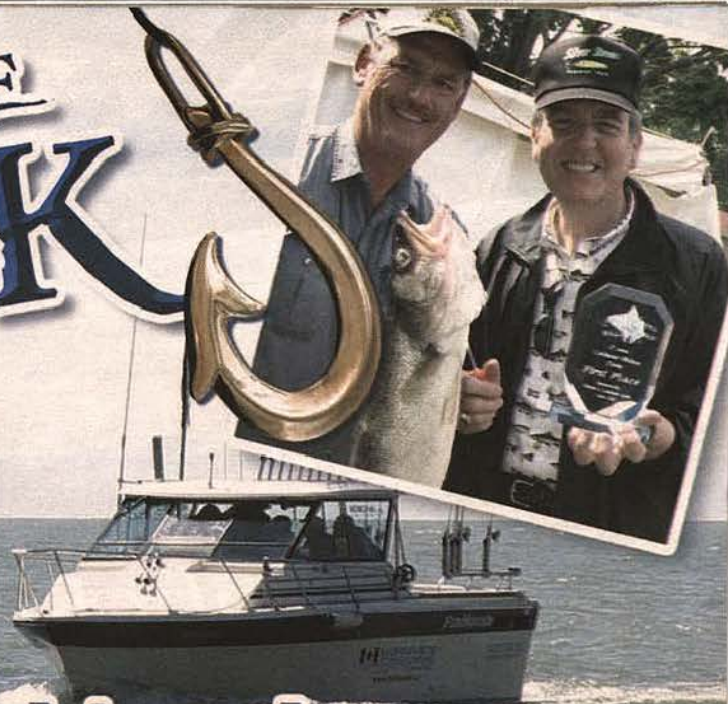
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# ON THE HOOK



## Fishing the Walleye Capital of Canada

By Andy Comber

It is the second Saturday in June 2007.

In the light of the early dawn boat after boat is launched. There is a parade of anglers, 100, 200, 300... on this day, 550 will be counted.

Lake Erie is calm as the boats spill out of the harbour. Some speed to the east, some to the west, some towards the famous "one-mile marker", each skipper knowing his favourite fishing grounds.

It is the Harrow Colchester South Lions Club's 15th Annual Walleye Derby, the largest single-day walleye derby in southern Ontario.

The place is Colchester Harbour: Walleye Capital of Canada.

It was that second Saturday in June 2007 when Colchester was officially declared the Walleye Capital of Canada. It was a proud day, a day long overdue for one of the central organizers of the derby – Greg Horoky.

On that day, Horoky measured the winning entries. A 30½-inch walleye earned Amherstburg angler Ron Abbott top honours and the first prize of \$1500. Even fish that were 29 inches long failed to make the top ten list.

"Where in the world can you catch 70 fish and then complain because your 27-inch fish is not big enough," Horoky declared. "It doesn't get any better than this!"

While the adult anglers were searching the lake for their prize walleye, over 110 young anglers taking part in the Kids Fishing Derby lured some "big ones" of their own out of the waters surrounding Colchester dock. In 2007, nine-year-old Cole Brunett took top honours with a 17½-inch bass.

Many of the adult anglers got their start fishing in the kids' derby, Horoky said. Like many anglers, as a youngster, he developed an interest in fishing alongside his father.

When it comes to sports fishing, Horoky is an enthusiast, a guide, a charter skipper and a professional. When it comes to walleye fishing, Horoky has been called a "Great Lakes walleye wizard" by the legendary "Mr. Walleye" – Gary Roach, a member of the U.S. National Fishing Hall of Fame.

Horoky has been a "student" of fishing in Lake Erie for about 30 years. By 1982, it was already becoming a passion.

"I spent two years learning the lake," Horoky said. "You get to know the fish and their patterns."

Walleye are native to most of Canada and the northern United States. Here, they are often called pickerel – mistakenly, for they are not related to the other pickerel species.

The common name, "walleye," comes from the fact that their eyes, like those of cats, reflect light. This "eye-shine" is the result of a light-gathering layer in the eyes that allows the fish to see well in low-light conditions, giving it a distinct advantage over its prey.

Walleyes are largely olive and gold in colour. The dorsal side of a walleye is olive, grading into a golden hue on the flanks. The colour shades to white on the belly. The mouth of a walleye is large and armed with many sharp teeth.

As shown year after year in the Colchester derby, walleye grow to about 30 inches in length and reach a weight of about 15 pounds. The largest recorded size is in the neighbourhood of 42 inches and 25 pounds.

The majority of male walleye mature at age three or four, with the females maturing about a year later. Adults migrate to tributary streams in late winter or early spring to lay eggs over gravel and rock. There are also open water spawns on reefs and shoals.

The Colchester Reef is about four miles offshore, Horoky said. "There are places with less than three feet of water, in the middle of nowhere. That's why there are so many shipwrecks out there."

The bottom of the waters just beyond the mile marker at Colchester are a "great big boulder field, with boulders as big as a car," Horoky said.

"The boulders attract bait fish, and where you find bait fish, you find game fish."

For Horoky the health of the Great Lakes and the fish they contain is vitally important. He has been a member of the Lake Erie Management Committee for five years.

On the Canadian side of Lake Erie, the walleye, along with bass and yellow perch, are pursued by sports anglers and commercial fishing operations. But, on the U.S. side, sports fishing dominates the American waters.

After decades of study, researchers and anglers thought they understood all there was to know about the walleye. For example, it was long believed that the fish needed calm waters for a successful spawning season. But in 2003, a terrible wind churned the waters during the spawning season, Horoky said.

"Everyone thought it was going to be a disastrous year, but it ended up being the second most successful hatch in recorded history."

What has Horoky learned?

"When you go up against a fish with a brain the size of the tip of your little finger, you are going to lose every time," Horoky said. "You over-think them."

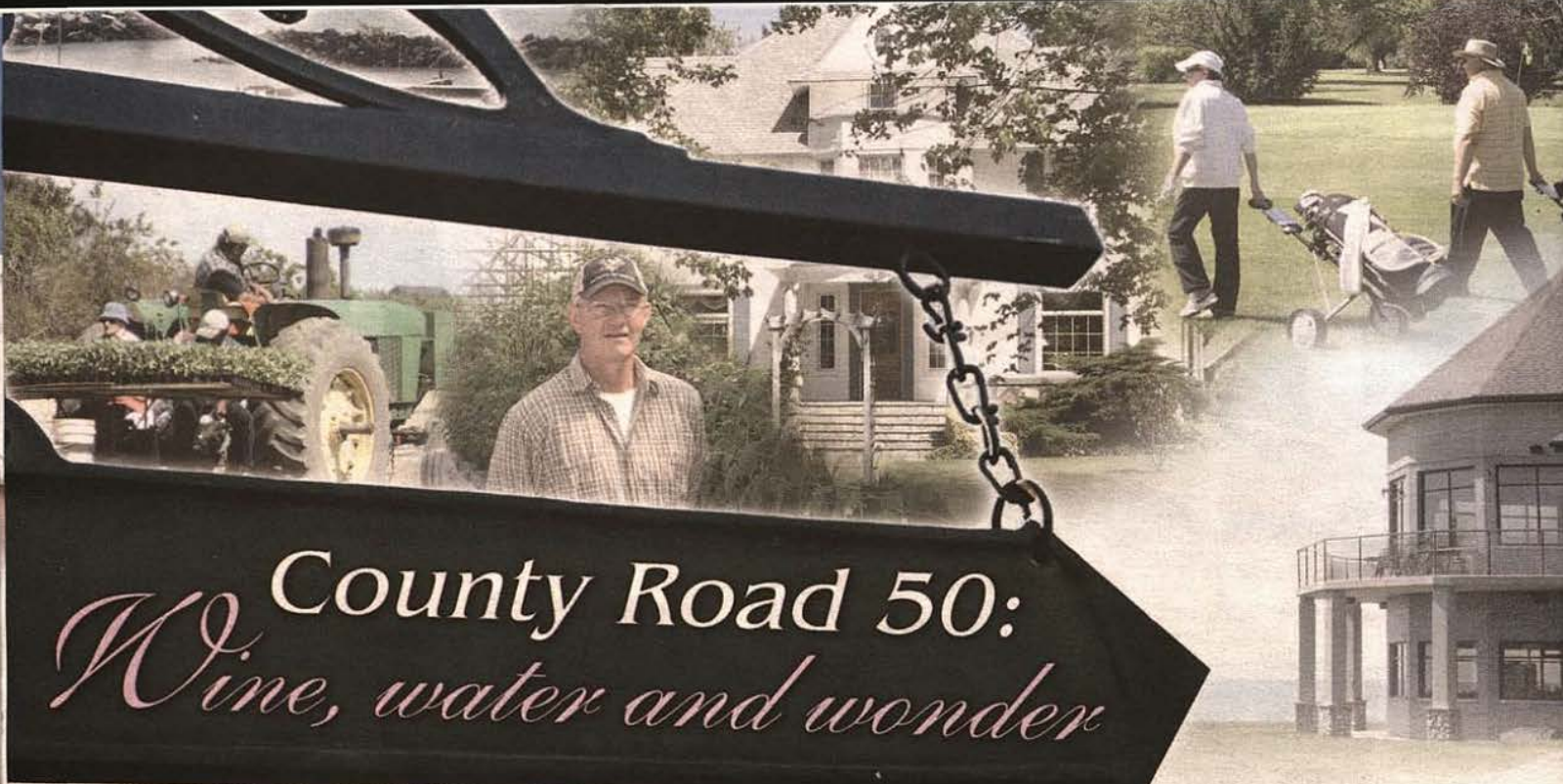
Horoky said Colchester Harbour and its new title as the Walleye Capital of Canada is relatively undiscovered. Even local folks are unaware of this local treasure.

"I always saw Colchester as a gem. This harbour is a diamond in the rough."

Horoky will be at Colchester Harbour for the 18th Walleye Derby on June 12, 2010. He will be amused too, as he is every year, when visitors view a cooler full of walleye and say, "Oh my God, look at these fish!" and Horoky replies, "Those are the losers – the winners are over here."







# County Road 50: *Wine, water and wonder*

By Andy Comber

Imagine a road you could tour in one day, enjoying wineries, golfing, fruit stands, historic homes, beaches, boating, fishing, and biking along a winding, picturesque shore.

It is the kind of road tourists seek out and the kind of road tourist operators dream about. Beautiful from end to end, it is a road we have right here in Essex

County. It is County Road 50.

"It's a ready-made tour package," says Lonie Kady and Ken Schwab of Windsor Essex Trolley Tours. "Wine, water and wonder, all found along one road."

Kady and Schwab know County Road 50 well; it is one of their most popular routes for the trolley named Desire, a quaint and comfortable tour bus fashioned after an old-time trolley with oak and brass interior.

"County Road 50 has so much diversity," Kady says. "There is agriculture, history, natural areas, vineyards, a beautiful view and something to explore in every kilometre."

Kady has long realized the importance of partnerships, packaging and promoting destinations as a regional team.

"We all have to be ambassadors for our region," Kady said. "It always amazes me how many people are not familiar with the treasures that exist in their own backyard. County Road 50 is one of those treasures."

Traveling with the sun, east to west, County Road 50 offers something for everyone.

Setting off from Cedar Beach you'll find cottage country, sailboats, and canoes where lazy Cedar Creek meets the blue waters of Lake Erie.

Just down the road is a seasonal pick-your-own blueberry farm, followed by the John R. Park Homestead, an award winning living history museum situated on Erie's shore.

There is a welcome familiarity to Doug and Leslie Balsillie's Fruit Farm and their trademark Fruit Wagon, which offers the latest in seasonal fruit – strawberries, sweet cherries, raspberries, peaches, nectarines, apricots, plums and apples.

Only a little further along is Oxley Beach Golf Course, a beautiful, highly rated 3-par course.

Along the drive, it is clear why County Road 50 is the perfect fit for

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local bed and breakfast venues, some situated in historic homes, like the Bell House.

More than a dozen wineries operate in the region, many of them located along County Road 50. This includes the unique Viewpoint Estate Winery with local fieldstone incorporated into its beautiful buildings overlooking the lake. Arriving at Colchester Village, visitors find themselves in the heart of the region's wine country. There are wineries to discover in every direction, starting with the award-winning Erie Shores Vineyard west of Colchester, and even across the waters on Pelee Island.

Colchester offers history and charm, a groomed beach and a marina. Colchester Harbour was named Walleye Capital of Canada in 2007, but it has been known as a sports fishing hotspot for decades.

Cyclists have discovered County Road 50 as a remarkable path, and connections are close to the Chrysler Canada Greenway, a part of the Canada Trail system. Birders have found it too, eyeing the water, land and skies along the Big Creek watershed – home to so many birds, from hummingbirds to bald eagles.

For several years, WE Trolley Tours has been promoting the region as a destination. Schwab notes there are many more discoveries on the paths and roads that branch out into Essex County.

As the trolley rides towards the sunset, there is more wine, water and wonder to explore.



## Explore the Shore Tour County Road 50

Conservation areas at John R. Park Homestead and Holiday Beach will be the end-to-end anchors for a tourism initiative that invites tourists and local residents to explore mainland Canada's most southern shore.

Tourism Windsor Essex Pelee Island is partnering with over a dozen venues for the Explore the Shore - Tour County Road 50 initiative to be held on the July 24-25 weekend.

Participating wineries, businesses, eateries, conservation

areas, pick-your-own-fruit and other venues will welcome visitors with various offerings to highlight the attractions along the scenic drive.

Tourism officials say future plans are to expand the Explore the Shore from Point Pelee in Leamington to Fort Malden in Amherstburg.






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## Low tide on Lake Erie

Andy Comber

You gasp for air, your breath taken away, as you face powerful winds screaming out of the south-west down the length of Lake Erie.

A few boats remain in Colchester Harbour, but only a fraction of the water, as if the tide were out. But we don't have tides on the Great Lakes, do we?

With its length in line with prevailing winds, Lake Erie is prone to storm surges, also known as "wind set-up". It happens when sustained high winds from one direction push the water level up at one end of a lake, making the level drop by the same amount at the opposite end.

A wind set-up in 1979 resulted in a water-level difference of 14 feet between Buffalo,

New York at one end of Lake Erie and Toledo, Ohio at the other.

As winds diminish, waters in Lake Erie can begin to "slosh" from one end to the other, much like water sloshing in a bathtub.

This sloshing effect is known as "seiche" – pronounced "saysh" – a phenomenon also common to Lake Erie because of its elongation, shallow depth and its position along major storm tracks.

With seiche, water levels rise and fall much like a tide going in and out.


The Canadian Hydrologic Service reports tides from one to five centimetres on the Great Lakes. But these "tides" are often masked by seiche, wind, storm surges and barometric pressure changes.

Weather-induced events happen here all the time.

The wind rises, the water disappears, and you're left breathless.


< The bottom of Colchester Harbour will sometimes show after high winds drain the water from the harbour basin. It's a phenomenon known as "seiche".





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# THE WAR OF 1812: BATTLEGROUND ESSEX COUNTY

By Andy Comber

As the sun begins to disappear on the horizon, a warm summer breeze gently sways the bulrushes stretching above the muddy waters of the river.

Suddenly, the quiet is torn by alarm as thunder rolls across the countryside. It is the makings of a storm – war – the lightning, the flash of flint on steel, a lead ball sent to find its mark.

It is July 16, 1812, and there on the banks of the Rivière aux Canards lay two British soldiers, the first to shed their blood on Canadian soil in the War of 1812.

A month earlier, on June 18, the United States had declared war on Great Britain. With a nation of over seven million opposed to a colony of 300,000, the Americans were confident of victory. President

Thomas Jefferson predicted Canada's conquest would be "a mere matter of marching."

The American invasion plan was simple. Their superior forces would strike the border strong points at Montreal, Kingston, Queenston and Amherstburg. The meager British forces in Upper Canada would be overwhelmed, the victory won, Lower Canada the next prize.

William Hull, governor of the Michigan Territory, commanded the U.S Army of the Northwest. He did not learn of the declaration of war until July 2. A week later, he received orders to invade Upper Canada at its most south-

westerly frontier, at Sandwich, just downriver from Fort Detroit.

British Major John Richardson, "a gentleman volunteer" with the 41st Royal Newfoundland Regiment, later recorded that "a very weak detachment" of about 200 men defended Fort Amherstburg – known as Fort Malden to the Americans.

"With this view, the division under General Hull, consisting of two thousand three hundred men, had been urged forward with all possible despatch to Detroit," wrote Richardson.

To Richardson and his commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas Bligh St. George, the fall of Fort Amherstburg and an American victory must have seemed certain.

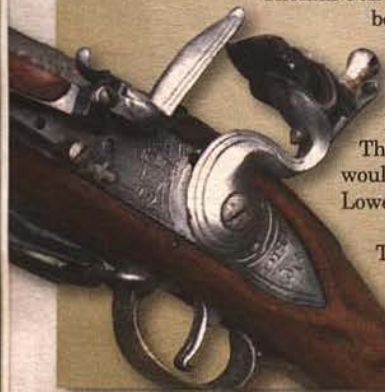
Hull prepared to cross over to Canada on July 11, but his confidence was less than rock solid. Just two days earlier, he had written Secretary of War William Eutis with some reservation. "The British command the water, and the Savages – I do not think the force equal to the reduction of Amherstburg."

At Sandwich, fearing a rout, St. George had withdrawn an equally reluctant and ill-prepared body of citizen soldiers, the militia of Kent and Essex counties, to Amherstburg.

Finally, on July 12, Hull transported his troops across the Detroit River, below Belle Isle. An eyewitness account recorded by U.S. General John E. Hunt describes the events of the day.

"One beautiful morning they crossed without opposition and made a fine display, marching down opposite Detroit with colours flying and music playing. There they made a fortified camp and remained."

Hull issued a proclamation to the people of Upper Canada, promising to free them from the "tyranny" of the British.



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"I come to find enemies, not to make them. I come to protect, not to injure you," Hull said. Those that would freely take up arms with the Americans would be welcomed.

Perhaps with the goal to discourage the British employment of natives, Hull concluded with a serious warning.

"No white man found fighting by the side of an Indian will be taken prisoner; instant destruction will be his lot."

To secure provisions for his army, Hull sent out a number of foraging parties, one of the more successful of these led by Colonel Duncan McArthur of the 1st Regiment, Ohio Volunteers. McArthur's party was sent at first in pursuit of an Indian war party on July 13.

Hull banned all marauding, but farms and stores were left bare along McArthur's path as his force marched a distance of 60 miles across the county to the Thames River valley.

On July 16, Hull sent out a force of 280 men under the command of Colonel Lewis Cass of the 3rd Regiment, Ohio Volunteers. It consisted of a troop of cavalry, a detachment of rangers, and a company of regulars under Captain Josiah Snelling.

Cass was ordered to scout the Detroit River road as far as the Canard River bridge, but he had explicit orders not to cross the Canard, nor to attack the enemy.

A U.S. Army command study compiled for Michigan State University by Robert Quimby details the American advance south towards Fort Amherstburg.

"Having left camp about 9 a.m., the column had marched to about two miles from the Canard bridge when Cass's cavalry reported the bridge was still intact but guarded by 25

men on the bridge and an equal force visible on the far bank... Cass immediately decided to seize the bridge in complete disregard of his very specific orders."

On the British side of the Canard, St. George posted marksmen among the river's long grass and bulrushes. He had called for the bridge to be destroyed, but that task was only partially achieved when the American forces arrived on the scene.

It was the first time the Americans had come up against British regulars, who in this case were supported by local militia and Indians.

With far superior numbers, Cass decided to divide his force in an attempt to outflank the British defenders. One unit continued towards the bridge preceded by an advance guard. Cass marched his remaining force five miles upstream where he found a place to ford, retracing his route on the opposite bank.

Not knowing the territory, Cass had marched too close to the river. He had come in sight of the British by sunset, but his flanking maneuver was blocked by a tributary. The error bought precious time for the British defence.

The Americans were thrown into confusion by the first hostile fire, but Cass quickly restored order and returned fire. The American troops left north of the bridge also opened fire and charged the bridge.

The British reformed three times, but greatly outnumbered and faced with an attack at their rear, they retired towards Amherstburg.

Richardson said two "gallant" sentries – John Dean and James Hancock of the 41st

– held their ground, displaying the "heroic conduct of a private soldier of the British Army."

Dean, felled with one arm broken by musket shot, raised himself to meet the advancing Americans with his bayonet, until he was overwhelmed by numbers. Hancock, bleeding from at least two wounds, and unable to support himself, fought on his knees until captured. He died later that night.

There on the banks of the Canard, Dean and Hancock became the first soldiers to shed their blood on Canadian soil in the War of 1812.

The Americans now held the bridge. But their path was hampered by "daily skirmishes" and Hull was reluctant to advance on Fort Amherstburg without artillery support.

On August 2, warriors under Chief Tecumseh crossed the Detroit River and disrupted Hull's line of supply.

Failing to open his lines of supply, and fearing a mass Indian attack from the north, Hull retreated to Fort Detroit on the night of August 7-8. The Canard bridge was abandoned.

On August 13, General Isaac Brock, commander of the British forces in Upper Canada, arrived from Niagara to take command. Three days later, Brock bombarded Fort Detroit and persuaded Hull to surrender a force of about 2,500, almost twice the British number.

By failing to force a crossing at the Canard, Hull gave away his earlier advantage and enabled Brock to inflict a devastating defeat on all the American forces in the Michigan Territory.



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# Coffee with... Arnie McCallum

By Laurie Brett

C-O-O-L

I think you are really swell  
You're cool  
You're cool  
You're really, really cool

So starts my coffee date with children's author Arnot McCallum. Nowadays, he's teaching children how to read using rap. Rapper "60 Cent", as he calls himself, is modeled on American Grammy award winning rapper and actor 50 Cent. Why 60 Cent?

"I'm 10 cents better," he laughs.

S-M-A-R-T

You look really smart to me  
You're smart  
You're smart  
You're really, really smart

Arnie says his young charges fall into line behind him as he marches around the room reciting these simple raps, but not without good educational rationale to back it up.

"You have two memory banks," he explains. "One in the front lobe here," he points to his forehead, "is your short-term memory. The one in the back is your long-term memory. Every adult, every child, every human being has to see, hear, read, write, listen to, and repeat a word or a memory – what they want committed to memory – anywhere from 20 to 30 times before it becomes part of the long-term memory bank."

As Lady Gaga sings *Bad Romance* over the sound system at the Essex McDonald's, Arnie starts to explain how he became uniquely qualified to inspire children to read.

"I was employed by the Greater Essex County District School Board as the reading/writing coordinator for 25 years... When I started teaching I taught grade 8 and gym... I was in the gym getting kids excited about jumping and throwing, high-jumping, running, whatever."

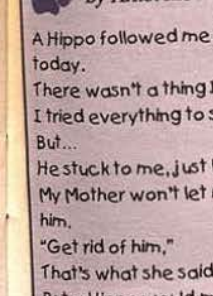
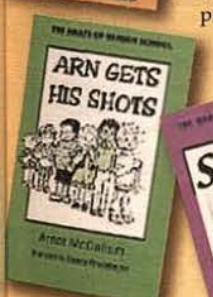
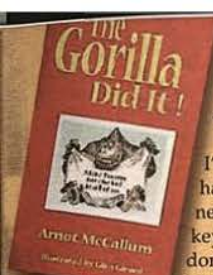
When quizzed about whether his approach to teaching phys. ed. for 10 years was as spirited as his approach to teaching youngsters to read, he says, "I have the enthusiasm of guys a third of my age, I think."

Indeed! At 78 years young, Arnie McCallum brings exuberance and drama to everyday conversations about his past, the children he's taught, and the poetry and stories he uses to entertain them. Between sips of coffee, he sings snippets of songs written by his friend Donnie Gall for his Super Rex reading program, acts out plots from several of his books, and recites poem after poem with the same animated delivery that he uses with kids.

He explains that his writing career only took off after a grade 2 teacher

◀ Local children's author Arnie McCallum holds a copy of *Eanie Meanie Hate Zucchini* in his left hand and a wall hanging displaying the covers of seven of his books in his right. The wall hanging was a gift from his wife, Marcy.





challenged him to teach her class.

"So I went into the class and I said, 'Hey kids, guess what? I've got this dog' - and I did have a dog named Rex. So I said, 'I have this dog named Rex and he's giving me lots of trouble. I really need your help.' In any job if you're dealing with children that's the key words - I need your help. So I said, 'I need your help because I don't know what to do. This dog of mine is going out at night chasing little kittens and puppies around the neighbourhood, and he's barking his head off and neighbours are calling me to stop him and he won't listen to me. Could you guys write him a letter? Could you write him a letter and tell him to be a good dog and stop this stuff?' They said, 'Sure we will.' And a little boy put his hand up - obviously he was the smart one in the class - and he said, 'Wait a minute, Mr. McCallum, dogs can't read. It's no good writing him a letter.' And I said, 'You're absolutely right. But guess what? I'll read it to him.' And he said, 'Oh, then that's okay.'"

From that point on Super Rex became an important part of Arnie's life. With the help of his good friend Glen Girard as illustrator, Arnie would go on to write over a dozen books in the Super Rex series using a super dog and a female protagonist, Tammy Terrific, as the primary characters in his plots.

Being current with the times is important to Arnie. In the late 1970s - the era of the Six Million Dollar Man and the Bionic Woman - Tammy Terrific was a bionic terrier.

"We were way ahead of our time," says Arnie, "because girls in those days in stories were wimps. Wimps! They sat back and said, 'Help! Help!' Tammy Terrific said, 'Don't touch my friend Rex. I know karate and judo.' And they laughed at her until she flipped them in the air."

"Girls can do anything as good as boys," Arnie says in the high-pitched voice he uses for Tammy during his school presentations.

Despite the public location and many curious stares, Arnie is irrepresible. His stories require gestures and sound effects and drama - lots of drama.

"Good teachers are hams," he says. "Good teachers have to be thespians, they have to be actors and actresses. I've been in every classroom in Essex County in the last 50 years and all the wonderful teachers I see are actors and

actresses. It's showtime, baby, because these kids are getting showtime every night or every day of their lives at home. Turn on the TV, it's showtime. You've got to be good. No longer can we be assigners and testers. Good teachers don't assign or test."

With that, he launches into another story, this one about Ralphie, the kangaroo rat with the southern accent who has a hard time fitting in. By the end of the story, children learn that they shouldn't judge people based on how they talk or what they look like. Ralphie turns out to be the hero when he saves everyone from Tough Tom Tabby.

Arnie says that most of his stories are based on true incidents in his life, but the poems about hippos are another matter.

After he signs my copy of *Eanie Meanie Hate Zucchini*, his most recent published collection of children's poems, I ask whether he has any new works in progress. A *Python Is Eating My Teacher*, a new collection of poetry, is ninety per cent done, he says.

"They don't always come perfectly," he says, referring to his poems. Although he writes about two poems a week, he has to "edit and edit and edit" to get some of them just right.

What I think will be my parting question for Arnie becomes an entirely new discussion. When I suggest that writers need to be avid readers and then ask what he's currently reading, his answer is surprising. It's not another children's author or poet. It's Maclean's magazine, "cover to cover". Adults need to keep abreast of current affairs, he says, for the sake of our children.

"Are we leaving a safe, warm, inviting world for the children?" he asks. "We should be endeavouring to make this world we're leaving them an honest, safe place."

Right to the last drop, Arnie's compassion and concern for his young friends is unfailing.

He gives me, a "new pal" according to the inscription he's scribbled inside the cover of my book, a warm hug outside the restaurant.

The rest of the inscription: "I would not trade you for a Hippo's bellybutton."



## Road Kill Cafe

By Arnot McCallum

(Composed for a restaurant located on Route 66 in Arizona)

I had my dinner yesterday  
In a place they call Road Kill Cafe.  
They serve their dishes  
For guys and chicks,  
Scraped off Highway 66.

There's Javelina Pasta a la mode,  
Squirrel Lasagna a la road.  
Hamster Hash, Rack of Coon  
Chunk of Skunk  
Leg of Loon,  
Fat Free Cat, Pit Bull Pie  
Seagull Soup  
With Eagle's eye.

The Buffalo Wings are very good.  
They lift them gently from the hood.  
Turtle Toes are quite a deal,  
They serve them hot, right off the wheel.  
Ground Hound meatballs,  
Soufflé of Snake,  
Deep Ditch Rooster  
Flattened Drake.  
The Chef is really quite a fella,  
I'm sure he carries Salmonella.  
The food is tasty... The food is dandy,  
Just keep your health card  
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# All About BOOKS

## White Snow Blackout A Hockey Story

Joseph A. Byrne

Reviewed by  
Andy Comber

*White Snow Blackout* weaves several interesting stories together, some both years and distance apart, but all connected by one truly Canadian thread – hockey.

Local author Joseph A. Byrne looks for the essence of hockey – how to define what hockey really is and what makes it so compelling to Canadians.

I found many of my own memories coming back as I read Byrne's real-life hockey experiences, from his earliest memories of skating on a local pond, when a pair of boots served as goal posts, to the present day.

Byrne parallels some of those experiences with the famous hockey showdown between the Soviet Union and Canada – the Summit Series played in September 1972. At that time, the Soviets dominated hockey on the world stage at a time when only amateurs could play in the Winter Olympics. But the summit series put the best hockey players in the world into the game.

The book keeps alive the famous goal by Paul Henderson that won the '72 series. The euphoria for that goal surely surpasses the excitement felt by Canadians when Sydney Crosby scored against the U.S. to win the gold medal in the Vancouver 2010 Olympics.

The book takes you back years before 1972, with Byrne reliving another summit match – one between kids playing on Puce creek and the seasoned players found on the adjacent

Gabe's pond.

Byrne recalls playing the deciding game in a blizzard – "a white snow blackout" – the inspiration for the book's title. He also writes about how he got the winning goal, a memory relived upon hearing "He shoots, he scores!" when Henderson scored for Canada.

The book makes me recall my own historic goals on a pond somewhere in the past. But Byrne said it best.

"Before Henderson's goal, I felt I had scored the biggest goal in Canadian history, the biggest goal I knew about anyway."

The book begs the question: What is the essence of hockey to you?

Local  
Author!

## The Madwoman of Bethlehem

Rosine Nimeh-Mailloux

Reviewed by  
Jennifer Cranston

*The Madwoman of Bethlehem* opens in an insane asylum in Bethlehem in 1957. Amal is a woman forced to feign insanity to avoid the death penalty for killing her abusive husband.

Amal's memories take us back through her oppressive and abusive childhood and marriage. Her incarceration shows us life in the "Oasis for Troubled Women."

The institution is a place with its own oppression, abuse and violence. There, Amal becomes adept at playing the part of a madwoman while staying alert and navigating the dangers and pitfalls of her prison. That is, until the day she forgets her own rules and fails to escape the attack of a violent inmate.

Her injuries confine her to bed where she begins a process of healing, both physically and emotionally.

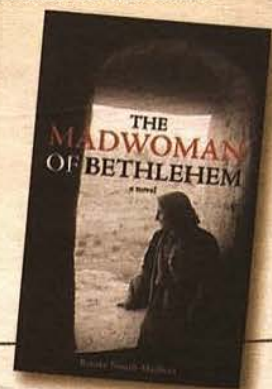
Author Rosine Nimeh-Mailloux takes us on a journey through what seems like an inescapable nightmare to acceptance and forgiveness, and finally to a place of self-determination. Although the

theme of the story could make for a sad and depressing read, through Amal's inner strength and tenacity of spirit the reader finds an inspirational tale.

This book is based largely on the lives of two women in the author's own family. Nimeh-Mailloux says the book is a combination of fact and fiction that she calls "faction."

The author grew up in Jerusalem and Bethlehem during the 1940s and 50s when her family became refugees to escape the war between the Israelis and Palestinians. She is able to give this story the texture and flavour of the time, and the cultural complexities that help to make it a very real experience for the reader.

Local  
Author!





## Befriending Death: Henri Nouwen and a Spirituality of Dying

Michelle O'Rourke

Reviewed by  
Connie-Jean Latam

We are all afraid of death, unless we are open to understanding it as a loving experience that can enrich ourselves and others. In *Befriending Death: Henri Nouwen and a Spirituality of Dying*, Michelle O'Rourke, a registered nurse and pastoral minister, shares the wisdom of Henri Nouwen, a Dutch-born priest and psychologist who became a much-loved spiritual writer throughout the world.

Although Nouwen's work has its basis in Catholic/Christian theology, his writings are universal and come from the heart. As his life's journey unfolds and others emotionally touch him, Nouwen comes to see and reveal the truth of life and death. The focus is on Christ and beyond, to the connection through

love that we all share regardless of religious belief, race or culture. As in true unconditional love, there is only peace.

This book will be of interest to people who fear living in the present and people who are always trying to discover the purpose of life. Emphasis and encouragement to live each day with love for self and others is the true plan that allows us to embrace death with peace and joy. In reflecting on how to

befriend death and die well, we can more easily move from fear to love and appreciate that our legacy will go on for generations, since love is stronger than death.

Connie-Jean Latam is a Doctor of Natural Medicine, the author of *Everything Is Food!* and a Certified Trauma, Loss and Addictions Counsellor.



## The Day the Falls Stood Still

Cathy Marie Buchanan

Reviewed by  
Annette Gabriele

Ever beautiful Niagara Falls is only one of the stars in this Canadian historical romance; set in the early 1900s, World War One is also a featured character.

In the "mist" of all this excitement we have our sweet Bess, whose life is being constantly rearranged in this novel. The poor girl gets kicked out of school for lack of money, falls in love with a man not worthy of her social status, gets engaged to another man she does not love, and so begins the reader's ride over the falls in a barrel (pardon the pun!).

Throughout the story we are also taken on a historical ride, for the author provides scraps of truth from

Niagara's past, mixed with fiction, to provide the reader with a character development like no other. I became ever so anxious for our damsel Bess. Her life in this time period not being easy, she rises to the occasion and, like the falls in the background, never stops, never relents, even though the task before her may seem daunting.

I am reminded of the recent economic difficulties here. The characters deal with a lack of work, a war abroad, and it is all confused with technological advancement (mainly hydroelectricity) only slightly different from our present-day woes.

As the reader, I was ensnared into wanting more and had a hard time putting this one down. Settle into a great romance, a great romantic setting, and a great Canadian love story.

Annette Gabriele works in acquisitions at the Essex County Library.



## Still Alice

Lisa Genova

Reviewed by  
Annette Gabriele

Imagine looking around and suddenly realizing you don't know where you are. You no longer recognize streets, towns or the people staring at you as you walk by dazed and disoriented.

Now imagine looking into a loving face. Although you don't know it, it is your spouse. Eyes stare at you, waiting for you to answer, waiting for the right answer. These are your children, though you are clueless as to who they might be and what they are doing in your room, and why everyone looks so sad.

Alice Howland is a cognitive psychology professor who specializes in linguistics at Harvard University, a career to be very proud of. She has three adult children and an equally successful husband. Life is sublime until lit-

tle things start to happen. At first she forgets where her BlackBerry is, or misplaces a word and its meaning. Then the big wake up call: Standing in the middle of her regular running route, in her town, in her own community, she doesn't know where she is, how she got there, and worse, she doesn't know how to get home. So begins this 50-year-old woman's journey into the debilitating disease known as Alzheimer's.

Be prepared. This novel can lure you into a seemingly pleasant reading scenario then turn your experience into a very real, very scary reality check! But please, do read it. This topic, though coming to you here in fiction, is worth investing yourself in. Chances are someone you know is dealing with Alzheimer's right now.

Annette Gabriele works in acquisitions at the Essex Public Library.



## People of the Book

Geraldine Brooks

Review by  
Elly Takaki

People who are fascinated by history but prefer to read fiction will savour Geraldine Brooks's *People of the Book*. The story follows Australian book conservator Hanna Heath, who has traveled to war-torn Bosnia to examine a rare manuscript called the Sarajevo Haggadah, one of the oldest and most beautiful illuminated Jewish prayer books. Hanna, a loner whose life is her work, doesn't just restore rare books—she also uses the tiny fragments of matter that have fallen into manuscripts to connect with the past and reconstruct the book's history.

The story alternates between almost present day and crucial moments in the Haggadah's history. Each flashback chapter is

based on a small but revealing item that Hanna finds in the book: a hair, salt crystals, wine stains, a butterfly wing. The reader is transported to such exotic times and places as Nazi Germany, Venice during the Inquisition, and a 15th century harem. Descriptions are vivid and the flashback chapters are bursting with rich historical detail. Some of the characters (like Lola, a young Jewish woman who becomes a resistance fighter in Germany in 1940) are so engaging that you don't want to leave them behind to return to the present. It's easy to see why Geraldine Brooks is a Pulitzer Prize winner (awarded in 2006 for her novel *March*).

Alternating between poignant moments of upheaval in the past and a suspenseful plot in the present, *People of the Book* is an adventure in historical fiction.

Elly Takaki is Branch Supervisor at McGregor Public Library.





# Looking for Love on Mongo Tongo

Margaret J. McMaster

Reviewed by  
Connie-Jean Latam

Local  
Author!

*Looking for Love on Mongo Tongo*, the second of the *Babysitter Out of Control* series, is a delightful, illustrated chapter book with an imaginative plotline that will appeal to children making the transition from picture books.

We are all looking for love. Unfortunately, it takes a toll on our emotions and physical well-being, even if you are a parrot. Petey, the parrot, suffers heartbreak over his separation from his one true love, Jezebel, and wallows in sorrow. While babysitting eight-year-old Stewart, Mrs. Chairbottom, a babysitter with an outrageous sense of adventure, seems to note the parrot's sad condition. She scoops up Petey and Stewart and scoots them off to Mongo Tongo, the island where Jezebel lives. With an enormous

sense of fun and frivolity, they set off to find Petey's true love. An exciting and challenging adventure ensues.

Author Margaret J. McMaster is a branch assistant at the Essex Library. She is the creative and charming author of the *Babysitter Out of Control* series and the middle-grade novel *Carried Away On Licorice Days*, which was longlisted for the Canadian Library Association's 2009 Book of the Year for Children Award and is shortlisted for the 2010/2011 Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award.

*Looking for Love on Mongo Tongo* will be launched on Saturday, July 3 at the LaSalle Library at 10:30 a.m. All of McMaster's books are geared to stimulate children to read.

Connie-Jean Latam is a Doctor of Natural Medicine and the author of *Everything Is Food! Words of Wisdom From a Small Child*. She is also a Certified Trauma, Loss and Addictions Counsellor.



# Wilma: A Lady of Courage and Dignity

Jim Oates

Reviewed by  
Connie-Jean Latam

Local  
Author!

Love emanates everlastingly from the pages of this book, as Jim Oates assembles a collection of memories of his late wife Wilma, a meek woman who had an inner beauty to match her outward appearance. This life story will touch the soul of anyone who has or has had a deep love for a spouse or sweetheart.

Wilma, a girl from Colchester North Township, was raised by simple, hard-working parents who valued God and family life. Wilma exemplified this in her speech and behaviour. Love was sacred and special.

Special, yet simple. By the simple touch of bumping hands in the popcorn at the movie, the love story began for Wilma and Jim. It was a journey of financial woes for this farm girl and farmer/factory worker, a life filled with many emo-

tions and challenges of physical well-being. Their strong Christian belief system allowed them to prevail with great resilience, through the storms of life and the wonderment of finding and truly loving each other. Now, with the loss of his wonderful wife, Oates looks forward to the afterlife and rejoining the relationship.

Have you lived a life filled with love for self and others? The Christian belief system in this book will enrich yours as it captivates your heart.

Jim Oates is a retired farmer and factory worker, born in Riverside, who now lives in Essex. He has written many short stories and this is his first book. Jim continues to research and write biblical and historical articles.

Connie-Jean Latam is a Doctor of Natural Medicine and the author of *Everything Is Food! Words of Wisdom From a Small Child*. She is also a Certified Trauma, Loss and Addictions Counsellor.



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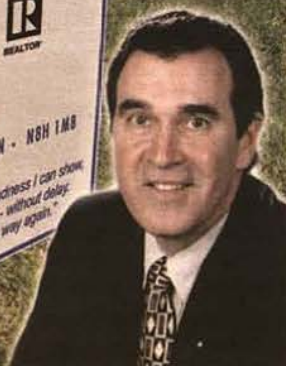
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# A Taste of Essex County

## Erie Shore Vineyard

By Laurie Brett

On a breezy May morning, Harvey and Alma Hollingshead are crouched low to the ground near their vineyard pavilion, preparing their flowerbeds for the busy summer season ahead. Six of the nine visible wind turbines located just west of their property on County Road 50 are turning at a slow but steady pace. Six hundred metres from Erie's shore, the lake breezes are beneficial, not only to the grapes cultivated at Erie Shore Vineyard, but also to the wind energy company that is periodically testing its turbines before putting them into regular production.

A week after the threat of spring frost kept Harvey and Alma up all night irrigating some of the vines, Alma says the danger has likely passed and the 2010 crop is "looking nice so far".

"We've had a very early spring, three weeks ahead of a normal year, six weeks ahead of last year, which has made us frost-prone. But I think we've squeaked through."

Frost is always a concern with an early spring. The large, warm rains of early April brought the grapes out of dormancy, she says, making them frost-prone. That's when Harvey and Alma hauled out the frost fans and the water hoses. Ironically, the process of turning water into ice releases heat and temporarily insulates the grapes from the ravages of frost until the outside temperature increases.

With a Bachelor of Science degree in agriculture from the University of Guelph, Alma's knowledge of viticulture (the science of growing grapes) and oenology (winemaking) is extensive. She has managed the family's estate winery – the fifth winery to establish itself in the region – for the past 13 years, alongside her husband Harvey, the operation's winemaker.

Alma can effortlessly rhyme off the seven varieties of grapes they grow, their attributes and the wines produced from them. Two varieties of grapes grown at Erie Shore Vineyard are very versatile, she says.

"The Vidal is one. We do an icewine, a dry table wine, an off-dry table wine, and a dessert wine. So we get four vintages from one variety."

Likewise, the red Cabernet Franc variety yields five vintages: their most popular wine called Summer Sun, a barrel-aged Cabernet Franc, a Cabernet Reserve, a Winter Harvest Cabernet, and an ice wine.

Other white grapes include Reisling and Chardonnay. Zweigelt, Baco Noir and Chambourcin round out the reds.

Although the 2009 crop was "light" due to the harsh 2008 winter, Erie Shore Vineyard will soon release two summer reds: their 2009 Summer Sun Cabernet described on their website as "a delicate salmon coloured wine with a vibrant citrus nose with pronounced lime, fresh grapefruit with a dusting of sugar on the palate," and their 2009 Sellar Secret, a summer red made of Chambourcin grapes "off the skin".

Seventeen vintages currently line the walls of Erie Shore's on-site retail store, many of them award-winning wines. It is well worth a trip through the lake breezes along the shore to sample some of Harvey and Alma's grape creations.

## Chocolate Covered Strawberries

This continues to be an all-time favourite!

4 ounces milk chocolate chips or dark chocolate  
1 tablespoon shortening  
1 pint fresh strawberries, leaves attached



Insert toothpicks into the tops of the strawberries.

In a double boiler, melt the chocolate and the shortening, stirring occasionally until smooth.

Holding the strawberries by the toothpicks, dip them into the chocolate mixture. Turn the strawberries upside down and insert the toothpick into a piece of styrofoam until the chocolate cools or place on wax paper. Drizzle with white chocolate if desired.

Alma's Alternatives: In season, try blueberries from Klassen's Blueberry farm, or raspberries and peaches from the Fruit Wagon – both located nearby on County Road 50.



### Wine pairings

Serve chocolate covered strawberries alongside 1 to 2 ounces of Erie Shore Vineyard's Vidal or Cabernet Icewine.



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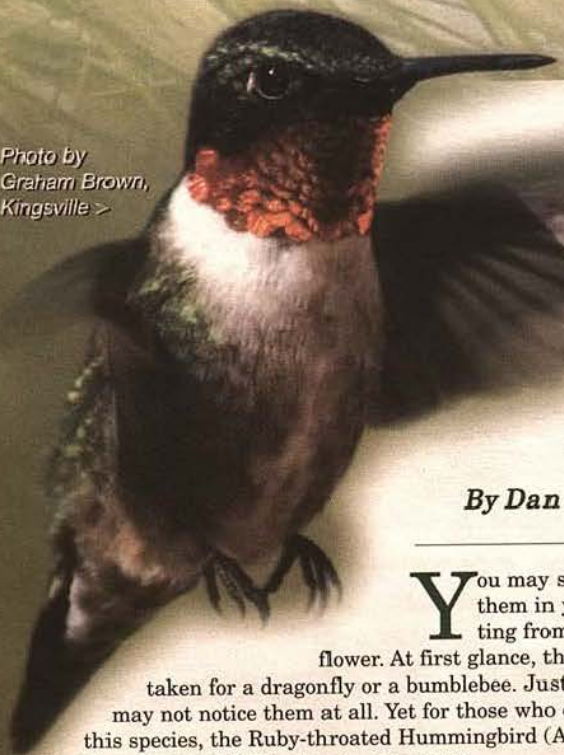
**SUN 12 TO 5**





# Natural Treasures of Essex County

Photo by  
Graham Brown,  
Kingsville >



By Dan Bissonnette

**Y**ou may sometimes see them in your garden, flitting from flower to

flower. At first glance, they might be mistaken for a dragonfly or a bumblebee. Just as often, you may not notice them at all. Yet for those who do take notice of this species, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird (*Archilochus colubris*) can bring delight at every encounter.

With an adult size of only about 8 cm (3.2 inches), it's understandable why this little bird often goes unnoticed. With an average weight of only 3.1 grams (1/8 of an ounce), a hummingbird could sit comfortably on a drinking straw without causing it to bend. Not surprisingly, it is the smallest bird in our region, as well as all of Canada.

These little creatures are regarded as marvels of engineering. Unlike most birds, their wings are only hinged at the shoulder, allowing them to have a range of motion of nearly 180 degrees. Combined with their high metabolism (with an active heart rate of over 1,000 beats per minute), their wings can flap 40 to 80 times per second, which produces their characteristic humming sound. This allows these little birds to be remarkably fast; they are capable of speeds of up to 80 kilometres per hour during short bursts.

Their unique design allows these tiny birds to make a migratory journey of thousands of kilometres each year. Ruby-throats spend their winters in Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean. As the spring approaches, they cross the Gulf of Mexico on a non-stop flight that takes 18 to 20 hours. They typically arrive on the U.S. Gulf Coast in early March. From there, they continue northward, moving in sync with the blooming of spring flowers.

According to Sarah Rupert, a senior park interpreter with Point Pelee National Park, they usually arrive at the park sometime in late April or early May, although in some years migrants have been found as early as mid-April. Most hummers make their way across Essex County between early to mid-May. Many move northward throughout southern and central Ontario, although many others opt to remain

## Essex County's Tiny Visitor:

### *The Ruby-throated Hummingbird*

here in Essex County for the season.

A hummingbird's diet consists primarily of nectar from the flowers of a variety of perennials, as well as trees and shrubs. They prefer deep, tubular flowers, which usually contain significant reserves of nectar. They also eat insects and small spiders as a source of protein. In early spring, when flower sources can be scarce, hummers will supplement their diet with fresh sap from trees, which they drink from woodpecker holes.


According to Bob Hall-Brooks of the Holiday Beach Migration Observatory, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird prefers a forest-meadow habitat, where it can find shelter and nesting opportunities among large trees and shrubs, while seeking out nectar-producing flowers in the sunnier meadow openings. For those who want to attract hummingbirds into their own landscapes, Bob emphasizes the importance of looking beyond a hummingbird feeder and creating conditions that would be similar to their natural habitat.

"Hummingbird feeders and native flowering plants will provide sources of nectar," he says. "But you need to provide a full environment on or very near your property, such as a forest edge for nesting, insects for protein, and shrubs for protection to attract birds to stay in the area."

In terms of providing a welcoming landscape for hummingbirds, Ed and Linda Blais of LaSalle have been doing just that for over ten years. The back of their property is home to a variety of trees and shrubs, which provide nesting opportunities, as well as shelter during harsh weather. Their immediate backyard functions as a simulated meadow, with a sheltered lawn punctuated with numerous plantings of both native and non-native flowers. They also provide hummingbird feeders, which are positioned near the back porch and kitchen window.

"We usually start to see them in early May," says Ed. "In the late afternoon, it's not uncommon for us to see at least one at the feeder every five minutes and often more."

"They seem to be very shy at the start of the year," he adds. "As time passes, they seem to get more comfortable around people. By summertime, it's possible to get right up close to them."



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Once a female locates a suitable location, she begins nesting. Much like the hummingbird itself, its nest is a marvel of miniature engineering. These are made up of bud scales, pieces of lichen, down from cottonwood or dandelion seeds, which are bound together with spider webbing. They resemble a mossy knob and, at about 3 to 4 cm (1.2 to 1.5 inches) across, they are not much larger than a tweekie. They are usually located about 3 to 7 metres (10 to 22 feet) off the ground. Old nests may be used for several seasons and are repaired annually.

A female will typically lay two, pale white eggs, each the size of a pea. After about two weeks of incubation, she will then care for her nestlings, feeding them insects. This constant care will continue for about three weeks, after which time they are ready to fledge.

Being as small as it is, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird faces numerous challenges. The long distance migration, during both spring and fall, takes its toll on a small percentage of these birds each year. Blue jays will eat nestlings. Large spiders and Preying Mantis can eat young and even adults. Domestic cats will readily eat hummingbirds if allowed the opportunity. Collisions with large windows also cause a significant rate of mortality. Loss of natural habitat, both locally and across their range, can also have a detrimental effect.

Despite these challenges, the Ruby-throated Hummingbird remains a remarkably resilient species and an important part of Essex County's natural heritage. With continued care for their natural habitats, as well as providing a welcome environment within our own landscapes, these little visitors will hopefully continue to captivate us for many years to come.

Dan Bissonnette is the Program Coordinator for The Naturalized Habitat Network.



< Hummingbird feeding

^ Hummingbird nest by Katherine Arthur

## Tips for avoiding window collisions with birds

- Breakup a window's reflection by adding decals, sun catchers, crystals, Mylar strips, windsocks or other obstacles outside. If these objects can sway in the wind, they will provide an additional deterrent. However, since small birds will attempt to fly through any space larger than 3-4 inches, decals and strips must be close together over the entire surface area to be effective.
- Consider adding one-way transparent film to large windows. This film can be seen through from the inside, but will appear as an opaque surface from the outside.
- Add taut screens to window exteriors. These screens will help to break up the reflection, as well as cushion the blow and significantly reduce the chance of serious injury.
- Add awnings over patio doors and large windows to prevent sunlight reflections. This will also help cool the window and increase your home's energy efficiency.
- Choose window designs with lattices and patterns in the framing or glass that can help deter birds. French doors and sliding doors can have removable lattices if desired.
- If replacing windows, consider having them angled down to reflect the ground rather than the sky.
- Keep birdbaths and feeders at a minimum of 4.5 metres (15 feet) away from any window.
- Remove houseplants from near windows so birds will not mistake them for shelter or food. Instead, position indoor plants and flowers where they cannot be seen from outside.
- Hang sheer curtains over large windows to minimize reflections. Kept closed, these curtains can effectively reduce window collisions without significantly decreasing light and visibility.



< A Hummingbird mortality from a window collision

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# Pet Pointers

By Kevin Wickham

The friendly wag of a tail, the innocent stare of inquisitive eyes, the non-stop purring motor that prances across the floor: it doesn't take much for our four-legged friends – dogs and cats – to hook us.

Pets come in every shape, colour, size and individualized demeanour. None of them come with a manual, so we depend on animal experts to guide us through the ups and downs of pet ownership. *Spotlight* recently searched out three local animal experts to share their pet pointers on such topics as how to select a pet, where to purchase one, and how best to keep your newest family member healthy.

Dr. Janice Huntingford, a veterinarian and owner of the Essex Animal Hospital, recommends using a registered Canadian Kennel Club breeder for purebred pups, as opposed to a backyard breeder.

"If you want a dog from a pet store, I don't usually recommend that you do that, because many times those animals come out of puppy mills in the States and have a lot of problems, so that's always the last place I would hope you'd get a pet from," she says.

The choice of breed should reflect your individual lifestyle. Are you an active person or do you lead a quieter life indoors? Think about the size of the full-grown dog and consider its coat length, because grooming adds to the expense and time you'll have to invest in your pet.

"I will usually tell people, unless they have a very specific breed in mind, to have a look at adopting a dog from the humane society, or from a rescue group, because those dogs really need homes," Huntingford says.

"I think the big selling point with our animals," says Windsor Essex County Humane Society Executive Director Melanie Coulter, "is a lot of variety. You can find animals of all ages, a number of different breeds, they're micro-chipped, they have their identification, and they are spayed or neutered."

Jean Bruce, a Belle River resident, is the owner of Crossroads Canine Academy and Day Camp. She has been a dog trainer for 38 years. For families with small children, Bruce recommends the sporting breeds (Golden Retriever, Lab, Pointer) and herding breeds (Australian Shepherd, Sheltie, German Shepherd, Corgi, Cattle dogs), because they have a high pain threshold and are less likely to bite. The toy breeds (Shih-Tzu, Poodles, Pugs) are better suited for the older, more sedentary generation.

Because the decision to purchase a new pet is a long-term commitment, a lot of thought needs to enter the decision-making process. But that's easier said than done. When purchasing a pet from the Humane Society, there is often very little background information on the adoptable animals. To address this problem, the Society has adopted a new program called "Meet Your Match" – a colour-coding system used to designate personality types.

"It's a program where we assess the animal's – dog's or cat's – personality with a standardized test that's been developed with scientific backing, and then the doctors come in, they fill out a short survey, and that gives us a number, and we match (the new owner) to a colour of an animal that would best fit into their household," says Coulter.

With a three-phase building addition planned over the next year, the Society has moved forward with implementing the new adoption procedure.

"It's been really popular so far," says Coulter. "We've been doing it for a few weeks now and it seems people are really responsive."

If a puppy is your intention, Bruce says the key is socialization, especially between eight and 16 weeks. Let them explore a variety of places but avoid places where they might pick up potential diseases; they are still lacking some of their immunities.

"There are more dogs euthanized between 10 and 18 months of age because of lack of socialization than there are dogs who come down with problems because of lack of vaccination," Bruce states.

If you adopt from the WECHS, your purchase comes with a set of vaccinations, deworming and a flea treatment, plus dogs

walk out the door with three free training classes (obedience and problem solving). Cats come with a follow-up from the Society's behaviourist, to help the new owner and pet become socialized together.

On the health care front, Huntingford says nutrition and exercise are two key elements. You should walk your dog for 15 minutes, twice a day, and have an annual health examination. Other proactive measures should include vaccinations for rabies, intestinal parasites, heartworm, fleas, and ticks. An identification microchip, tags and a license, plus leashing your dog, should be priorities.

"Leashes save lives," Huntingford says.

Breast and testicular cancers are common threats for our pets, just as they are for us. These diseases are more prevalent in pets that have not been spayed or neutered.

"Unless you are a breeder of animals, you should be spaying or neutering," says Huntingford. "Depending on the breed, we recommend somewhere between six and nine months of age, and it is very true that if you spay your dog under a year of age, then you will reduce the risk of breast cancer to zero."

The chance of developing testicular cancer becomes minuscule for neutered males.

"The personality of a pet does not reside in the gonads but in the head," she says. "Their personality will stay intact."

The number one health concern in dogs today is obesity. Huntingford says some people continue to feed their pets at the rate they fed them as puppies. In addition, Fido's daily walk doesn't always fit into our busy lifestyles. She says 30 per cent of pets used to be obese. Today it is 66 per cent, a result in some cases of an owner's guilt. People feel guilty that they are not spending more time with their pets, so they give them more treats. As the pet ages, the added weight results in arthritic conditions that can lead to knee and joint injuries.

In cats, diabetes is prevalent, along with Fatty Liver Disease. Cats are meant to be very active and eat high protein diets, like mice. They are not meant to eat diets of high carbohydrates. A lot of commercial diets are skewed towards carbs. As a result, cats become fat. The fat is deposited in their liver, but the feline liver was never meant to be a storage reservoir for fat, so it becomes damaged and the cat stops eating, gets sick, and starts vomiting.

A urinary obstruction, especially in male cats, is another concern. If you want to prevent urinary crystal formations, Huntingford recommends switching half of your cat's diet to canned food. A 20-year study at Ohio State University concluded that your cat will live longer and have fewer problems on this diet, as a result of the increase in water in their diet.

"Even if your food quality isn't that great, if you have enough water to flush the stuff out, you'll be better," Huntingford says.

When it comes to training, Bruce says you should start the day the dog comes into your house. Potty training and giving verbal commands like "sit", "lay down" and "come" should be taught using food and verbal praise. Dogs live in a family so all members in the household should be involved.

"The more you train the dog, the more you may see the intelligence, because the dog wants to communicate with you and wants to learn," she says.

Bruce uses the "clicker" method or non-punishment training. In more than a dozen years, she has never been bitten using this method. The clicker is a small, hand-held tool that makes a noise. Every click is followed by a reward. The reward happens after the dog does what you want.

"Clicker training is so precise, it gives the dog an audible picture of the behaviour you like, and as the dogs improve, we don't give the treats as much," she explains.

Bruce's success rate with the traditional correction training method, which uses choke collars, was less than 50 per cent. With clicker training, the success rate has soared to 90 per cent, but why?

"There is no threat," Bruce says. "The dogs relax. It is a non-pressure situation. It's in the dog's benefit to change his mindset."

In the end, you – the pet owner – are responsible for the health and wellbeing of your companion. Coulter says a good pet owner is "a caring individual, concerned about your pet, and willing to accept your pet for who they are."

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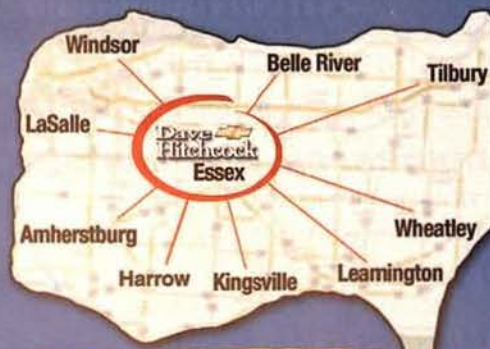


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